

CARRIER

MAGAZINE

INSPIRATION | KNOWLEDGE | STYLE



Style |

Time for Tea

WE RECONNOITRE THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE BEVERAGE

Inspiration |

Inside Arabia

EXPLORING A TRIO OF TREASURES FROM ALLURING ARABIA

Plus | PRIVILEGED ACCESS: ITALY

Welcome

For over 30 years, we have made it our mission to share our expert knowledge, inspire your travels and ensure that Carrier guests holiday in style. With this in mind, we introduce the all-new Carrier Magazine; refreshed and reinvigorated yet still bursting with insight – this is your go-to read for all that is luxury travel; for all that is Carrier.

Within each of the three chapters you will be sure to find tantalising cutting-edge news and a world of creative stories. ***Inspiration*** takes us on a journey to Arabia – an ancient land forging ahead in the modern world; a thrilling and unique sky-safari experience and journeys of adventure in the heart of Indonesia; we also explore what it means to be human in our Philanthropy feature.

Few will ever experience the vast solitude of The Colosseum or the intricate murals of the Sistine Chapel in complete privacy; in ***Knowledge*** we show you how Carrier has the expertise to arrange your Privileged Access to these incredible monuments in Italy; we tell you why 2016 looks set to be a big year for the jewel in the Indian Ocean that is Mauritius and experience the epitome of luxury cruising aboard Regent Seven Seas Cruises®.

Style showcases the Ultimate Indulgence in luxury travel right now – take to the skies in your very own multi-room Residence courtesy of Etihad – a travel first – and allow us to make your reservation at the most unique dining destinations in our portfolio, to enjoy oh-so-much-more than just a meal.

Knowledge. Inspiration. Style. Three words that epitomise everything that we do here at Carrier. They are our ethos. We recognise that holidays are precious few and transformative. They matter. Enjoy the luxury of knowledge. Read on and discover the world as we know it.

In this issue

Inspiration, knowledge and style are the pillars we feel underpin the world of luxury travel. These key cornerstones span a spectrum of Carrier destinations – we share our highlights across the pages.



30 / Mauritius

We peel back the layers of this Indian Ocean island, revealing all the more reason to travel to an already firm favourite.



58 / Maldives

We take a look around Velaa Private Island, the resort bringing new levels of luxury to the Maldives. Travel in ultimate style, on-board The Residence by Etihad.



10 / Arabia

The Arabian peninsula offers three distinct jewels in its crown. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman seem to be perpetually popular, and we see why.



52 / Anguilla

An insider's view into Malliouhana, An Auberge Resort, located on the charming Caribbean island of Anguilla, is just one of the stories we unveil.



34 / Italy

Rich in culture, art and history, Italy has long been the country of choice for those seeking Mediterranean refinement. We grant you VIP access.



Contributors

Justine Picardie is the Editor in Chief of Harper's BAZAAR and Town & Country. She is the author of five books; the most recent a best-selling biography of Coco Chanel. *See page 36.*

Arabella Dupont started at Condé Nast eight years ago, firstly at Tatler, then at Condé Nast Traveller, before joining the team at Brides Magazine as Retail Editor & Events Director. *See page 39.*

Christa D'Souza has been a Contributing Editor to Vogue for more than 20 years, and also writes for The Times, The Sunday Times and W Magazine. *See page 48.*

Geordie Greig is the Editor of The Mail on Sunday, and has held various editor positions at The Sunday Times, Tatler, London Evening Standard and The Independent. *See page 56.*

Travel notes

Three Michelin-star experience

Spain's youngest chef to be awarded three Michelin-stars, Eneko Atxa, is to open a pop-up restaurant in Malaysia. Aziamendi 88 will be sister restaurant to Aziamendi, a creative bistro on Natai Beach, Phuket. **Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur's** sought-after Mandarin Grill will be transformed into one of the city's most exclusive and creative dining venues. Adorned with Malaysian art curated by Lim Wei Ling, founder of Malaysia's eponymous leading art gallery, the innovative eatery will serve delectable creations crafted by a team of highly accomplished chefs including Chef Eneko's protégé, Chef de Cuisine Alex Burger, from Aziamendi.



WHISTLER'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

The well-groomed pistes of Whistler have welcomed skiers and snowboarders alike since the winter of 1966. Renowned as one of the first resorts to allow snowboarders to ride the lifts and achieving its dream of hosting the

Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2010, a programme of exciting events, both on the mountains and in Whistler Village will take place throughout January 2016 to mark the resort's 50th anniversary.



New watersports

Crystalline waters lap off Mount Athos, creating the perfect setting for exciting water-based adventures. This year, **Eagles Palace** has seen the opening of one of the most modern and luxurious watersports centres in Greece. Complete with the most up-to-date equipment, this exceptional complex can arrange an array of activities from scuba diving and water skiing to canoeing and kayaking. Along with the new, innovative facility, fitness enthusiasts are also able to hire bikes. We suggest cycling around the picturesque regions of the Halkidiki peninsula – and particularly recommend the charming village of Ouranoupolis.

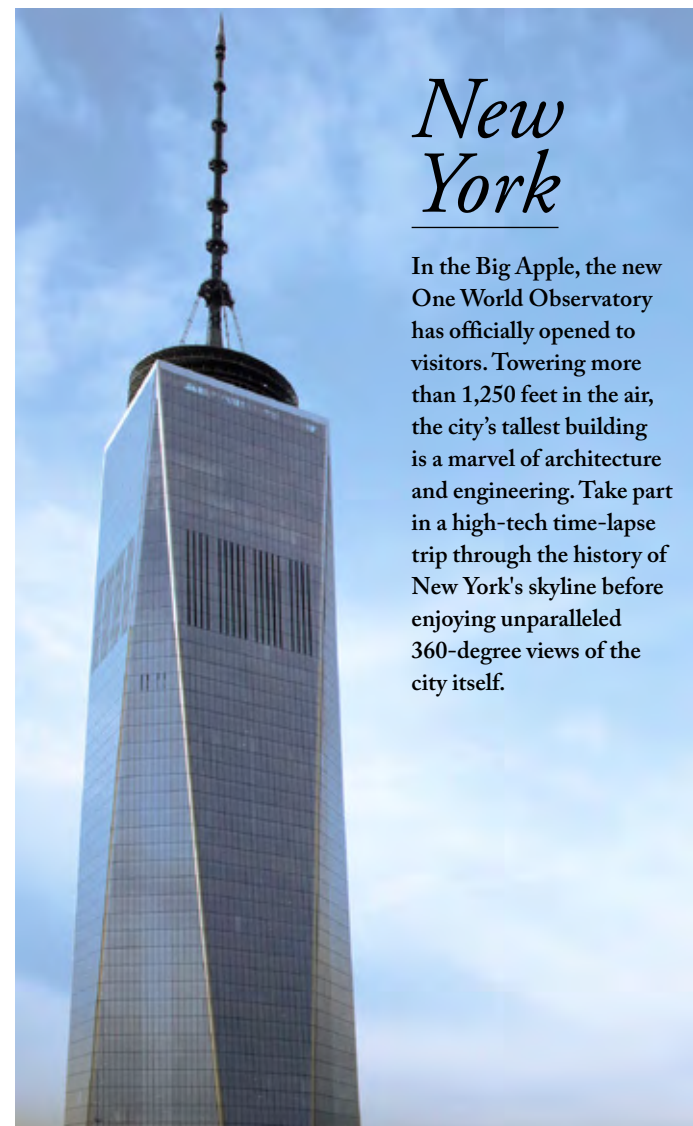


One&Only Reethi Rah 10th Anniversary

An idyllic private island located in one of the most exquisite destinations in the world, One&Only Reethi Rah is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month. An exciting schedule of events will run over ten months to commemorate the occasion. These include a wine dinner with Dom Pérignon, culinary adventures with Michelin-starred chefs and consultations with leading health and wellness practitioners. The resort opened its doors in 2005 and created an ultra-luxurious haven for guests of any age. Over the years the exclusive hideaway in the Maldives has acquired a number of prestigious awards and has introduced several enticing new resort-features.

New York

In the Big Apple, the new One World Observatory has officially opened to visitors. Towering more than 1,250 feet in the air, the city's tallest building is a marvel of architecture and engineering. Take part in a high-tech time-lapse trip through the history of New York's skyline before enjoying unparalleled 360-degree views of the city itself.



A380

With an ever expanding network and growing fleet, **Emirates** is currently the largest operator of the Airbus A380 offering indulgencies from state-of-the-art shower spas stocked with luxury toiletries to regionally inspired dishes paired with specially selected wines from the on-board sommelier.



British Airways have announced they are to fly to the world's most northerly capital, Reykjavik three times a week from London Heathrow. The frequent flight to the cosmopolitan Icelandic city is due to commence on 25 October 2015.



Bodyism in Italy

Nutritionist and personal trainer to film stars, models and socialites, James Duigan's Bodyism concept comes to **Capri Palace Hotel & Spa** – Bodyism's second European Clean & Lean residency. The London based health company has already enjoyed huge successes since its launch at D-Hotel Maris in Turkey and One&Only Reethi Rah in the Maldives, and Capri Palace is expected to follow suit.

Set within impressive grounds in Capri, you will find The Capri Beauty Farm. Managed by

Professor Francesco Canonaco, this futuristic medical spa offers a selection of programmes and a highly qualified team of doctors, therapists, beauticians, dieticians and chefs to deliver a holistic approach to physical and mental wellbeing.

Over 2,000 square feet of the health farm has been handed to Bodyism. Bespoke personal training sessions, yoga and facial stretching are to be expected. Guests can enjoy Clean & Lean menus at the two Michelin-starred restaurants L'Olivo and Il Riccio or sample delicious, healthy snacks from their own Clean & Lean mini bar.

Jamaica makes the list

Recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage list is the rugged, extensively forested and mountainous region in the south-east of Jamaica – the Blue and John Crow Mountains. The woodlands originally provided refuge for the native Tainos and Jamaican Maroons. Constructing a network of trails, hiding places and settlements, which now form the Nanny Town Heritage Route, the indigenous folk devised everything they would need for survival. The cultural legacy of the peaks still lives on and is also now a biodiversity hotspot for the surrounding Caribbean islands.





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@andBeyondSafari THIS is what happens when passionate people aspire to make a difference... #RhinosWithoutBorders [youtube.com/watch?v=0j27PJV9Gfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j27PJV9Gfc)

Inspiration
#09/28

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We explore a trio of treasures from alluring Arabia. Favourites Dubai and Abu Dhabi feature, alongside their ever-popular near neighbour, Oman.

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Channel Amelia Earhart for a safari with a difference, spot the Big Five in East Africa's finest game reserve or take the road less travelled in the heart of Indonesia.

20 PHILANTHROPY
Etymologically meaning love of humanity – caring, nourishing, developing and enhancing what it is to be human. We shine a light on our partners with this ethos at their core.

28 CALIFORNIAN ICON
We zoom in the lens on the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel – the 'Pink Palace' famous for legendary service and a guest list of Hollywood icons.



WELCOME HOME
An assortment of abodes across the globe that go above and beyond luxury living.

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Left: Amandira cruiser from Amanwana

Inspiration

Begin a journey of exploration as we delve into daydream worthy destinations, key travel trends and expert insight – sure to spark the imagination.



inside arabia

RENOWNED FOR BEING BIG, BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL, BUT
THERE'S MUCH MORE THAN FIRST MEETS THE EYE.

Once an obscure corner of Arabia, the United Arab Emirates now glints and glitters with eye-popping luxurious destination hotels. It burst onto the travel scene in 1999 when Dubai's Burj Al Arab opened its iconic doors, and has never looked back. Abu Dhabi has been slower to stamp its mark, as has neighbouring Oman, both very different, but now coming of age. From peaceful mountains to urban outposts and vast desolate deserts, we explore an ancient land looking towards the future.

Calm Oman

From mountain high to ocean deep, Oman is full of surprises. It's everything you don't expect of the Middle East. It still has a remote undiscovered feel, there's a slower pace of life, less development, a raw natural beauty and that impossible-to-ignore thousand mile coastline. This is the region's old soul, a country with a strong sense of identity, culture and tradition,

a place you can really engage with local Arab life. Oman's towns retain their ancient charm: they bustle with men in bright blue dishdashas; fishermen going about their trade; children playing on the streets and colourful bazaars and souks brimming with silk, silverware and perfume. Most travellers start their journey in Muscat, a brilliant city/beach combo.

There is no better place to bed down than *The Chedi Muscat*: a zen-like bubble that has nailed chic-boutique. Bordered by the sparkling Gulf of Oman and the natural beauty of the Hajar Mountains, its location gets ten out of ten. Sleek without the bling factor, the design and ambience is also spot-on. Buildings remain in keeping with the Omani tradition of low-lying and the bright white décor gleams against the cobalt sky. A smattering of palm trees, tinkling fountains, water gardens and acreages of space add to the overall R&R effect. The rooms are beautiful, combining minimalism with a traditional Omani look and come kitted out with lots of little luxuries as well as a few cinematic views of the gulf. The Long Pool is what it says (it's double the Olympic length), and if that wasn't enough, there are two more including The Chedi Pool framed by cosy cabanas and a long stretch of private beach. The Spa is top of our pamper list and the food is fabulous, particularly the local fare at The Arabian Courtyard.



*Clockwise from left
The Chedi Muscat: The Long Pool,
The Club Lounge courtyard; Sultan
Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat.*

But do try to break out of The Chedi Muscat cocoon to explore the city. Visit the Grand Mosque, soak up the sights and sounds of the fish market; haggle at the famous and slightly chaotic Muttrah souk; stroll around the Old Town and down Shatti Al Qurum beach at sunset; stop off at the private Bait Al Zubair museum, a treasure trove of traditional art and artefacts; and if you're feeling flush, head to Amouage, the world's most expensive perfumery. Last but certainly not least, embrace the sapphire sea that twinkles morning, noon and night.

The sea is integral to Oman, and much of the country's history is written on its coastline. Today, it is alive with a busy fishing industry and a growing tourist trade. **Ocean Blue International** has a small fleet of boats and can arrange anything from dolphin-watching trips to private yacht charters. See Muscat from the water with a city tour, go fishing or take a sunset sail. If you have time, get further off the beaten track and head out to the Dimanyat islands, a stunning six-atoll archipelago home to protected coral reefs. Just ten miles off the coast it feels a world away and the snorkelling and diving is sensational. Ocean Blue has set up a private campsite or more accurately 'glampsite' (there are beds, showers

and a chef to prepare meals), so you can stay overnight under a blanket of stars. A little further (about a three and a half hour sail from The Chedi), is another do-it-now dive destination: Bandar Khairan, home to beautiful reefs and sandy beaches. Alternatively, board the luxury MY Ibra in Kahsab, and head off up to Majlis Bay, sheltered by the Musandam Peninsula's spectacular fjords before heading on to Dibba and Six Senses Zighy Bay.

From underwater to 2,000 metres above water, Oman's mountains soar skywards. The stark rugged beauty of the Hajar Mountain range is an experience in itself, heightened by the picturesque rural escape of **Alila Jabal Akhdar**.

This is the place for travellers looking to get away from it all. A two hour drive from Muscat through rugged terrain, it does seclusion, intimacy and authenticity, and is the perfect base from which to explore this extraordinary corner of Oman. The hotel teeters on the edge of a gorge, its stone-clad suites looking out over dramatic canyons. Designed with the setting in mind, the stone and wood buildings blend seamlessly with the surroundings. We love the natural look, and it's even better on the inside. Rooms are all dark wood, crisp linen and decorated with locally

High flyer

Originating in Dubai, **Emirates** has one of the youngest fleets in the world, meaning alongside exceptional service and in-flight entertainment, you can expect the utmost in comfort and latest in cabin design. Emirates flies 17 times daily to Dubai from a choice of six UK airports, offering convenient onward connections to over 140 destinations across six continents. Dubai makes a popular stopover en-route to destinations in the Indian Ocean, Far East, Africa and Australasia.



*Clockwise from right
Alila Jabal Akhdar: pool, village
men, Horizon View Suite; Ocean
Blue's SY Azzura catamaran.*



hand-woven carpets and hand-painted pottery. Vast bathrooms come with tubs carved from a single marble slab and the views are, in a cliché, to-die-for. This perspective-changing location is a wonderful place to just sit and be. But fight the holing-up urge; pull on hiking boots and head out (every room comes with a rucksack for good reason). A true trekker's paradise, follow wadis lined with walnut and gnarled juniper trees; walk through sleepy villages and ancient ruins; marvel at the rose terraces (between March and May) and explore Wadi Ghul, nicknamed the Grand Canyon of Oman. For the fit, take on the heady heights of Jabal Akhdar and for those after another culture fix, head to Nizwa and explore its 17th Century fort.

After energetic days, return to Alila's mountain-view pool, snuggle up in the library over a board game, and feast on Middle Eastern food at Juniper: the restaurant has a mouthwatering menu of tagines, mezze, labneh, fatoush, baba ganoush and pastilles. Alternatively, be rubbed and scrubbed in the serene spa, an ode to healing with out-of-this-world massages using locally grown herbs and essential oils. If Alila Jabal Akhdar signals the Oman of the future, this unsung gem of a destination will firmly cement itself on the must-go travel map.

Destination Dubai

There's nowhere like Dubai. Like marmite, you love it or hate it, but even those prone to a bit of eye rolling, can't fail to be fascinated by its futuristic vision, sky's-the-limit ambition and boundless optimism. It's definitely gutsy in outlook, but this can-do attitude has delivered the world's tallest building (Burj Khalifa); the largest shopping centre (The Dubai Mall); Ski Dubai complete with 6,000 tons of real snow; a palm-shaped island; a choreographed dancing fountain and a mind-boggling selection of destination hotels. We could go on... But for a mid-haul healthy dose of vitamin D and a slightly surreal sojourn, we can't help but be a little won over by Dubai's feel-good vibe. We've picked three sublime hotels to get you going.

Families should check out the beautiful **Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach**. Set on a private stretch of blinding white sand, we love its cool contemporary rooms, vast cloud-like beds and enormous bathrooms complete with Etro products. For families, the rooms can be cleverly interconnected behind an additional door or for any child bunking in with adults, there's a very generous complimentary policy. Life is never dull with tennis run by ex-pros, a plethora of watersports, pools galore (quiet,

active and indoor) and the flat-out brilliant Kids For All Seasons Programme. There are also kid-friendly menus at Suq, a market-style restaurant with three open kitchens and play area. The city itself is a playground: little ones will love everything from Wild Wadi Water Park to Sega Republic. But it's not all about them: adult time is well spent at The Pearl Spa, Sea Fu, Latin American Coya (hot from London) and Mercury, one of the world's coolest rooftop bars complete with ball-shaped bar.

Boutique isn't a word often associated with Dubai until you reach **One&Only The Palm**. This wonderful hideaway at the end of Palm Island's crescent is impossible to fault. Peace and quiet reign supreme, with the stresses of daily life a mere figment of the past. We love the Arabic-influenced design and muted, not at all OTT vibe. There are just 94 beautiful rooms (a headcount that covers 25 suites and four villas), complete with apartment-sized bathrooms. This is a place to embrace time and enjoy guilt-free lazing. From cocktails delivered to your lounge to incredible treatments at the ESPA-run spa, a finger rarely needs to be lifted. To top it off, the three restaurants (all under the guidance of Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alleno)

Alternative Dubai

It doesn't have to be total glitz and glamour. We've picked our top ten to-dos (mostly) away from the bright lights.

Walk the labyrinthine lanes of the Al Fahidi Historic District

Travel by 4x4 across the desert, try sand boarding, take a camel ride and enjoy a barbecue feast

Take a sunrise hot air balloon ride and watch the sun's rays spread golden over the desert sands

Book a cruise down Dubai creek aboard a wooden abra

Shop Bur Dubai Souk

Breathe in the heady aromas of Dubai Spice Souk

Visit Jumeirah Mosque

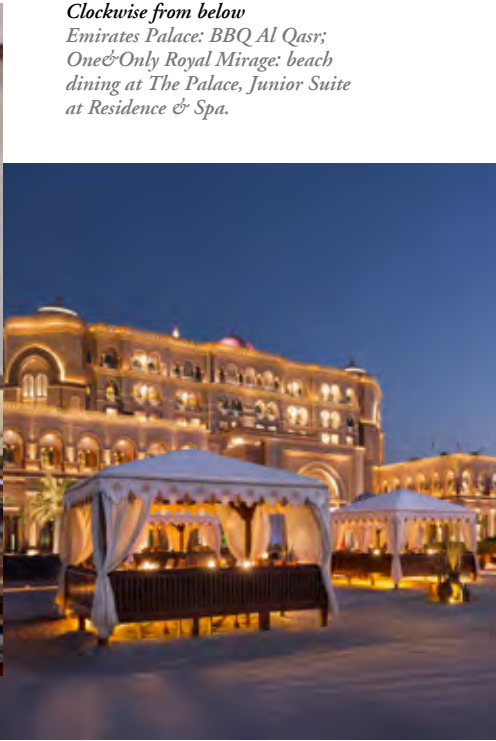
Explore Dubai museum – housed in a fort built in 1787, it depicts everyday life before the discovery of oil

Hit the slopes of Ski Dubai

Go to the top of Burj Khalifa – a must-visit (day or night) as long as you don't suffer from vertigo!

are a foodies dream come true. 101 Dining Lounge & Bar serves exceptional tapas and Mediterranean-style dishes; French restaurant STAY is a must for the 'pastry library' and the laidback al fresco Zest, whispers indulge.

Another One&Only masterpiece is **One&Only Royal Mirage**, a bigger but equally must-book resort on Jumeirah Beach. Recalling the romance of Old Arabia, the look is authentic with intricate arches, domes, towers and courtyards. A three-in-one resort, families should check into The Palace, its regal presence along the beachfront is home to oodles of leisure facilities including tennis, a watersports centre and a KidsOnly play centre. At the heart is the quieter Arabian Court or, for a total sanctuary, head to Residence & Spa, with its 48 rooms and 2,000 square metre spa and hammam (destinations in themselves). This is Dubai's foodie hotel: you could stay for a week and never have to leave. All eight restaurants are outstanding but be sure to nab a table at Tajine for mouthwatering Moroccan, try contemporary Indian at Nina and modern-fusion at EauZone. We also love the magical courtyards where you can recline on cushions under fairy-lit palm trees and smoke sheesha.



Clockwise from below
Emirates Palace: BBQ Al Qasr;
One&Only Royal Mirage: beach
dining at The Palace, Junior Suite
at Residence & Spa.

... an ancient land looking towards the future.

Inside Abu Dhabi

Hot on the heels of Dubai, Abu Dhabi is busy cementing its place on the sun, sea and sand map. It's definitely embracing modernity, but while doing so has also managed to retain a distinct Emirati flavour. The capital is a fascinating mix of tradition and progress: mosques, souks and forts exist alongside lush parks, mega malls and gleaming skyscrapers. Be sure to visit Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Able to accommodate up to 41,000 worshippers, it is a masterpiece of modern Islamic architecture, featuring more than 80 marble domes held aloft by 1,000 pillars. Inside is just as impressive with the world's largest loomed carpet and a 12 ton chandelier sparkling with Swarovski crystals. Outside prayer times you can take a guided tour, an excellent insight into Islamic religion. Take time to walk Qasr al-Husn fort; follow your nose to the fish market at Al Meena and the old spice souks, before visiting Abu Dhabi Heritage Village for a quick lowdown on Bedouin traditions. A little further afield is camel racing at Al Wathba race track and the immense desert where 4x4 safaris include dinner round a campfire. Modern musts

are Sky Tower for killer views, retail therapy at the futuristic Yas Mall and for the fearless, Formula Rossa, the world's fastest roller coaster found on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi's mammoth entertainment centre.

And there is nowhere more jaw-droppingly brilliant to stay than **Emirates Palace**, an Arabian icon where you can live like royalty. A destination in itself, it rises up like a fairytale palace fronted by a pristine private beach. The exterior is staggering in size and intricacy, while the interior is adorned with gold, marble and crystal. Rooms are super-swish and there's a butler for every guest. Facilities include a 14-venue culinary journey that travels from Chinese at Hakkasan to authentic Italian at Mezzaluna and Mezlai's Emirati cuisine. We also love the beachside BBQ Al Qasr and traditional Lebanese at laidback Diwan LAurberge. The activity list is equally impressive with two vast swimming pools, a FIFA-standard football pitch, cricket, tennis, two fitness centres, watersports aplenty, even bird watching. The cherry on top of the very large cake is the spa: like much of the rest of the experience, it is otherworldly.

Getting there:

Award-winning **Etihaad Airways** is the UAE's national carrier operating more than 1,000 passenger flights a week and six daily flights from the UK to Abu Dhabi with departures from London Heathrow three times daily, twice daily from Manchester and a daily service from Edinburgh. Flight time from the UK to Abu Dhabi is only seven hours.



Left & above
Four Seasons Resort Dubai at
Jumeirah Beach: Premiere Sea View
Room, outdoor Active Pool.



Above & right
One&Only The Palm: beach,
Villa pool.

EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE

Travel nourishes the soul, and never more so, we believe, than when the opportunity is taken to really get under the skin of a destination and begin to understand the rich tapestry of culture, traditions and natural wonders that make it so unique. Here's how adventurous and intrepid individuals can unearth the truly immersive travel experiences to be had at two of our favourite destinations for discovery.

Enjoy the ultimate safari experience on **Elewana's SkySafari**. Travel in style on an executive nine-seater Cessna Caravan plane between intimate boutique accommodations that place you at the heart of the most incredible game viewing locations. Offering much more than the archetypal safari, Elewana enable you to truly discover Tanzania.

Starting from Arusha Coffee Lodge – situated within an original coffee plantation – you can learn all about sparkling-blue Tanzanite gemstones before enjoying an evening coffee roast in front of one of the inviting open fires.

Known for its raised accommodation that encases a thousand year-old baobab tree and the huge herds of elephants that roam there, Tarangire Treetops offers its guests the chance to visit a local Masai village before heading back to the lodge to dine under the stars by lantern light at a traditional Masai boma.

The Manor at Ngorongoro is located close to the impressive must-see crater of the same name that is home to a collection of over 25,000 animals including the Big Five, dense forests, swamps,

rivers and a central soda lake popular with pink flamingos. Further diversions include horse-riding through the coffee estate and cycling along the trails.

Observe vast herds of wildebeest, gazelle and zebra thundering across the plains and watch the resident hippos paddling in the Grumeti River; Serengeti Migration Camp is set in an UNSECO World Heritage site.

Enjoy the best of both worlds; combine elements of Elewana's SkySafari with travel on terra firma as you drive your own Land Rover Discovery SE across the savannah, whilst being guided by a lead vehicle.

Elewana has also launched a SkySafari in Kenya this June, visiting the National Parks of Meru and Amboseli and the world-renowned Masai Mara.



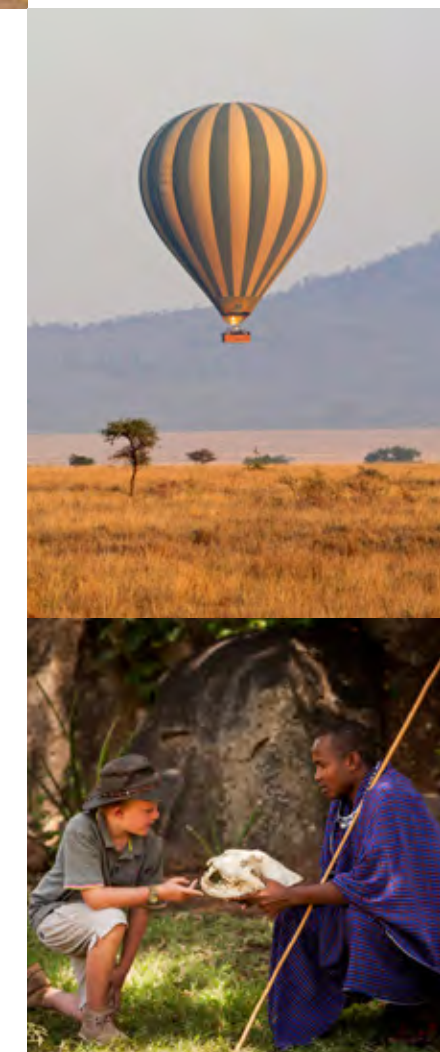
*Opposite page
Elephants grazing the Serengeti.*

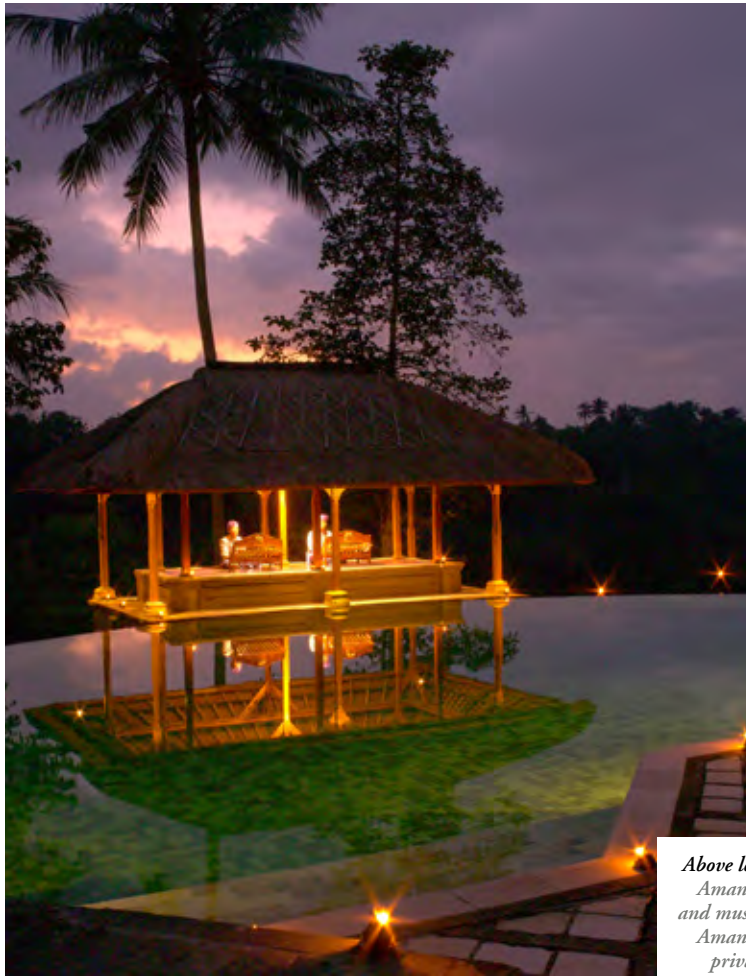
*Clockwise from left
Masai people; SkySafari aircraft, the only one of its kind in Tanzania; hot-air balloon over the Serengeti; bush survival with a Masai warrior; Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti; guided self-drive safari in Land Rover Discovery; grazing wildebeest; sundowners at Tarangire Treetops; migrating gazelles.*

Prefer to stay in one place for your safari? Without compromising on things to see and do, **Four Seasons Safari Lodge Serengeti** is a smart option. The first Four Seasons resort on the continent is set deep within East Africa's finest game reserve – ideal for observing the Big Five.

The Masai welcome and the delicious 'rhino cookies' waiting to be devoured in your suite, set the tone for this family-friendly safari retreat. Young explorers will love the Kijana (youth) Klub where children learn about Tanzania's wildlife and culture; experience a morning with a Masai warrior and learn important bush survival skills, such as how to make a toothbrush from a tree and the medicinal qualities of Masai plants.

Teenagers will love the Discovery Centre – the first conservation research and interactive education platform of its kind in East Africa – and the family Tanzanian cooking classes are hugely popular.





*Above left & right:
Amandari pool
and music pavilion;
Amankila suite
private pool*



Aman is an experiential brand, capturing the imagination of the global travel cognoscenti. Their innovative approach to luxury travel, where the experiences of guests take centre stage, complements its philosophy of opening up remote and less explored regions.

Take Bali: mystical and enchanting, this Indonesian island offers a spiritual mix of natural wonders and centuries-old tradition, best experienced from one of Aman's three exceptional resorts. Discover new Bali from the tranquil base of **Amanusa**, close to the chic shopping towns of Kuta, Legian, Sanur and Seminyak that are bursting with nightlife and quaint and quirky boutiques. Expect to see colourful textiles, carvings and jewellery and to taste moreish street food – try the Indonesian staple, chicken satay with spicy fried rice. Return to Amanusa for a Robinson Crusoe experience on the secluded beach – fringed by a coral reef, it is self-proclaimed as one of the best in Bali.

Situated above rice paddy fields and the Ayung River gorge that is excellent for white-water rafting, the design of **Amandari** follows that of a traditional Balinese village with pebbled

walkways linking thatched-roof suites with their own walled gardens. Amandari means 'peaceful spirits' and the name is apt – for centuries, locals from the nearby Kedewatan village have walked through the resort's grounds to worship at a pool of holy water that houses three modest shrines. Indulge your creative side by attending an art class in nearby Ubud, Bali's culture capital, or your culinary side by joining a cooking class in a traditional Balinese kitchen.

Active travellers will love **Amankila**. The area offers a host of activities for exploring, including mountain biking, horse-riding and diving. Alternatively, for cruising and snorkelling, Amankila offers two outriggers designed after the jukung, a traditional Balinese fishing craft. Close to the resort, you will find the last royal water palaces of the Raja of Karangasem; more baroque than Balinese, the first impression is that of a grand Romanesque hall decorated with ornate archways. These influences can also be found in Amankila's doorways and alcoves. Don't leave without climbing the nearby Mount Agung volcano, the highest point on the island. Ascend early with a guide and you will be there in time to witness the sun rising over the Lombok Strait. Utterly unforgettable.

Over on neighbouring Java, perhaps the most culturally compelling island in Indonesia, **Amanjiwo** offers many opportunities to fully immerse yourself in Javanese culture, including trips to temples and antique boutiques. Make sure you take advantage of the resort's dawn and sunset trips to Borobudur – an UNESCO World Heritage site and the world's largest Buddhist temple, containing 504 Buddha statues.

Moving from spiritual to natural wonders, Amanjiwo is located in one of the most scenic parts of Indonesia popular with trekkers and causal hikers alike. Situated within a natural amphitheatre, the limestone Menoreh Hills rise gently behind, the Kedu Plain in front and four dormant volcanoes can be seen on the horizon. Amanjiwo's design takes inspiration from the geology of the surrounding Yogyakarta locale, with its central area made from the region's paras yoga limestone.

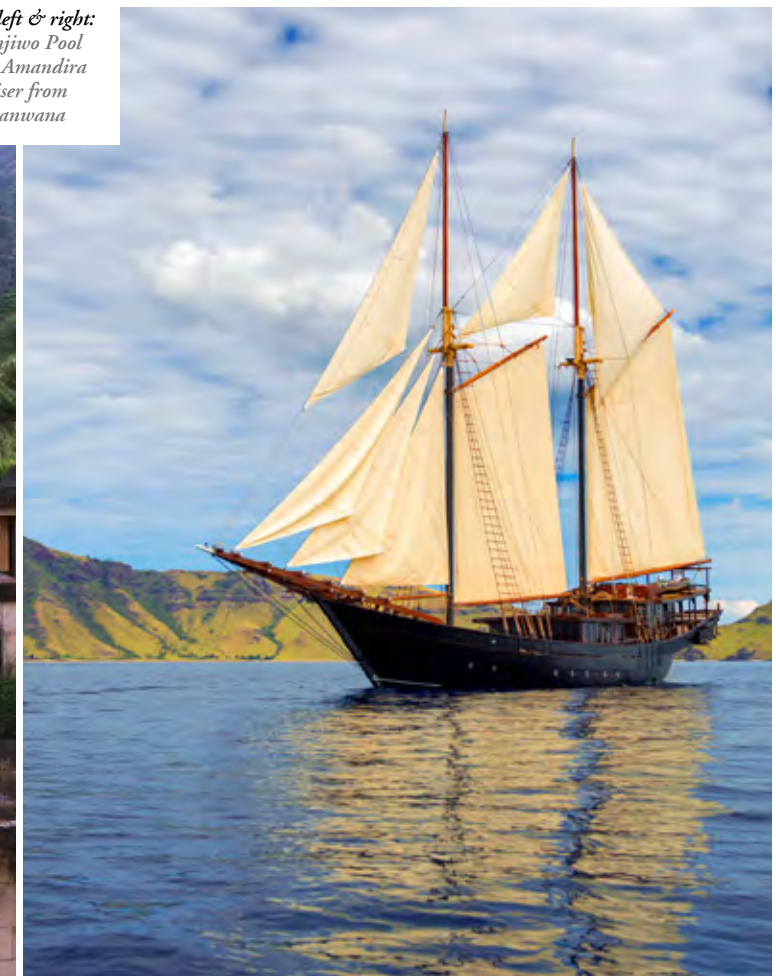
Discover nature in the raw with an immersive stay at **Amanwana** and sleep under a canopy of monsoon forest on the nature reserve island of Moyo, where Aman boast the only resort. The

protected marine park offers some of the best snorkelling and diving in Indonesia and the pristine coral reefs are teeming with marine life including hawksbill turtles, lobsters and Napoleon wrasse.

Guided jungle treks reward hikers with cascading waterfalls and a variety of birdlife – you may even catch a glimpse of the indigenous rusa deer that live in a sanctuary on the island. A real highlight that is not-to-be-missed is a trip to Komodo Island – home of the legendary dragons – on Amanikan, the resort's cruiser, or the newest addition Amandira, a 52-metre Phinisi sailing vessel.

Take Bali: mystical and enchanting, this Indonesian island offers a spiritual mix of natural wonders and centuries-old tradition.

*Below left & right:
Amanjiwo Pool
Suite; Amandira
cruiser from
Amanwana*



phi·lan·thro·py

(fī-lăn'thrə-pē)

1. The effort or inclination to increase the well-being of humankind, as by charitable aid or donations.
2. Love of humankind in general.
3. Something, such as an activity or institution, intended to promote human welfare.



Many of the hotels and resorts that we work with are actively involved within their communities and are genuinely committed to creating opportunities which nurture and develop the welfare and long-term good of the local people.

Kasbah Tamadot, Morocco

Dramatically located at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains lies Kasbah Tamadot – a former 1940s private home that has been converted into a stylish Moroccan retreat. Sir Richard Branson was convinced to buy the property in 1998 by his parents, who had discovered the

beautiful Kasbah during a hot air balloon ride. He bought the riad from antique dealer Luciano Tempo and, following a complete renovation, the doors to the stylish boutique hotel opened in 2005.

The charitable tycoon also created Virgin Unite in 2005, a non-profitable foundation which merges a community of powerful entrepreneurs and inspirational philanthropists to share innovative ideas to create a better world. Kasbah Tamadot works closely with the altruistic organisation to find new ways to support the local community. Upon purchasing the enchanting property, the neighbouring residents were at the forefront of the

company's mind and free English classes were offered to all. The hotel feels they have a responsibility to the nearby communities and recruit locally where possible – over 90% of employed staff live close-by.

Constantly endeavouring to improve living standards in the surrounding villages, the Eve Branson Foundation – a charity set up by Richard's mother to improve the lives of women – has opened an array of sustainable enterprises including a carpet workshop and a craft house which is ran and managed by locals. In addition, all items sold at Kasbah Tamadot are made in Morocco.

Opposite page

Berber tent at Kasbah Tamadot, Morocco.

Clockwise from right

Relocating rhinos as part of the 'Rhinos Without Borders' initiative; dining at andBeyond Nxabega Okavango Tented Camp, Botswana; open-air bathroom at Singita Boulders Lodge, South Africa; 'Growing to Read' programme at Singita Sabi Sand, South Africa.

andBeyond, Botswana

The great South African plains are home to over 80% of the planet's population of colossal, slate-hued rhino. However, of growing concern, poaching levels are increasing at an alarming rate and these magnificent creatures are at great risk of becoming extinct.

andBeyond are working with Great Plains Conservation to create a modern day Noah's Ark – Rhinos Without Borders. This initiative will relocate 100 rhinos from the zones with the highest poaching rates in South Africa, to the safety of neighboring Botswana – a country renowned for its anti-poaching systems and considered to be one of the most protected and secure locations in Africa for the enormously impressive beasts. After a successful start to the scheme, the first crash of rhinos are now safely ensconced within their new home.

Preserving Africa's land and wildlife is the shared aim of andBeyond and Great Plains Conservation. Through their combined work to save the species, enough funds have already been raised to begin the next move for the second collection of animals.

Singita Sabi Sand, South Africa

Amidst the raw African beauty of Singita Sabi Sand, you will find three exquisite safari lodges fully immersed in nature. Since the opening of the original Ebony Lodge in 1993, Singita Sabi Sand has truly invested in the local communities and culture. With the aim to empower individuals and improve their way of life, an array of community development programmes, largely associated with education, are offered in the local towns and villages.

The flourishing 'Growing to Read' programme provides an exceptional

opportunity to enhance the quality of education provided by local pre-schools. A dedicated trainer from the READ Educational Trust – an established, non-profit organisation and a well-known child development leader – visits ten local pre-schools to train and guide teachers. Staff learn the most efficient and effective ways of developing cognitive, physical and social skills amongst the children. A range of carefully chosen educational toys, books and stationary toolkits are also delivered to the schools to ensure pupils are fully equipped for the new style of learning they are about to embark upon.

Grace Bay Club, Turks & Caicos

It's a sizzling September morning and the volunteers from the Grace Bay Resorts Community Foundation are packing up their bus, ready to deliver backpacks filled with school supplies to the students of their five adopted underprivileged primary schools on the island.



The charity was created with the purpose and commitment of contributing to the future of Turks & Caicos. Working as a united front with the local community, the Foundation now contributes to two incredible educational schemes. Along with providing assistance and materials to disadvantaged schools, they encourage the youth of the islands to develop essential skills to cultivate personal growth and create motivation for future leadership.

Recognising that some students may not have the resources to continue their education, Grace Bay Resorts Community Foundation also offers sponsorships to those with a desire to succeed; acknowledging that it is important to identify local talent and then help to provide the educational assistance needed in order to achieve goals.

Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts

In addition to being renowned for their commitment and dedication to creating the perfect travel experience, Four Seasons are also highly celebrated for their devotion to caring for the communities within which they operate. Guided by these values, the group has identified high-priority areas in which they believe they can make a difference.

The company operate across the globe and celebrate the diverse cultures through creating innovative programmes to support those in need. For example, within both of the resorts in the Maldives, they offer a one-year Four Seasons Apprenticeship Programme to broaden the future prospects of gifted young individuals. In Chiang Mai, the resort has almost three acres of working rice fields on the property and employs 30 local farmers to tend to the crop. Every year, 2,000 kilograms of harvested rice is donated to local temples and charities in the Rimtai District. Over in Canada, Four Seasons Resort Whistler helped the 2010 Vancouver Olympics win the title of the greenest Games ever by donating the emission credits they received when the resort switched to an energy-efficient heating system.

Local farmers are employed to tend to the working rice fields and each year harvested rice is donated to local temples and charities.

Below left & right:
Grace Bay Resorts Community Foundation, Turks & Caicos;
Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai, Thailand.



WELCOME HOME

The best of both worlds, a home-from-home, signature living – however you phrase it, standalone residences with all the benefits of a luxury hotel are fast becoming essential for those seeking privacy and space, without compromising on style and service. These abodes are leaders in luxury living – a welcome, well, home.

The Island Home
Amilla Fushi, Baa Atoll, Maldives

Honing in on the varying elements of the island, Amilla Fushi, which translates from the local Dhivehi language as ‘my island home’, offers ten different styles of sanctuary, spanning ocean, beach, lagoon and even treetop living. Beauty is abundant both inside and out – the Baa Atoll is an UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, recognised for its unique harmony between man and nature.

And, unique harmony is an incredibly apt description for the overall experience at Amilla Fushi. Homes may be contemporary, but the island itself is rather rustic, staff are warm, unassuming and relaxed. It is not uncommon to see Michael Flynn, Chairman strolling around barefoot. Michael, alongside Tom McLoughlin (founder of PER AQUUM), are the visionaries behind Amilla.

Both have long been renowned for innovation and it would seem such talent is running in the family. It was Tom’s young son who inspired Amilla’s Tree Houses – sure to conjure up images of Peter Pan adventures for adults and youngsters alike. After telling his father it would be ‘cool’ to live up in the canopy, so began the vision for a selection of two bedroom homes situated 12 metres above the ground,

tucked away amongst jungle foliage and palm groves. The Tree House sanctuaries, as with the other homes at Amilla, offer lavish interiors, butler and chef service, private fresh water pools and mini bars. The larger residences, some sleeping up to 14 adults, step things up even further, with a private sauna, expansive sundeck and mesmerising Maldivian vistas. Whilst the vibe may be

suitably laid-back at Amilla Fushi, attention to detail is not. Between now and October guests can take advantage of complimentary watersports (even motorised) and a 50 minute spa treatment – every day. The Javuu Spa encourages a ‘stop and flop’ attitude – guests are just as welcome to simply chill out beneath the trees with a glass of Champagne. Set in a lush secret garden, ten treatment rooms offer traditional Maldivian rituals to revivify mind and body.

Acclaimed chef Luke Mangan has created three of the five distinct culinary experiences, which range from elegant over water dining at Lonu by Luke Mangan to diverse dishes at Baazaar, offering an infusion of Asian, grill and seafood specials. Of course, no retreat would be complete without personalised and private experiences on hand, and Amilla’s ‘Destination Dining & Home Delivery’ offers just that. Opt for butler service within your island home and enjoy Lonu’s signature dishes, or relax in front of the Maldivian sunset with a wide range of gourmet barbeque dinners available. Staff can take your table anywhere you wish – even to a deserted island.

Amilla’s Tree Houses are sure to conjure up images of Peter Pan adventures for adults and youngsters alike.

The Designer Home

La Clé des Montagnes, Franschhoek, Cape Winelands, South Africa

Located on a working wine estate, the four luxury villas at La Clé des Montagnes are set amongst picturesque vineyards and plum orchards, with an impressive mountain range completing the ultimate South African backdrop.

Each superb villa emanates a distinct personality – the handiwork of esteemed interior designer Sarah Ord, who is native to Cape Town. Sarah describes herself and colleagues as ‘magpies of colonial meets cosmopolitan style’ and this is definitely evident here.

Le Colonial is a bold four bedroom, four bathroom home, blending a perfect fusion of east and north African aesthetics, whilst Le Galerie, sleeping four, is positioned as an ‘avant-garde luxury villa’, with many of the deep grey walls featuring artwork by the acclaimed Swedish artist Bengt Karl Erik Lindström.

Three bedroomed La Grange is reminiscent of a Victorian farmhouse, making use of rustic woods, elegant

Below: Le Galerie garden and private pool at La Clé des Montagnes.



textures and seasonal hues, whilst Le Manoir, a two bed, is inspired by the French heritage of Franschhoek, showcasing beautiful antiques, traditional furnishings and splashes of colour.

Those with an eye for art will love Franschhoek’s galleries, easily accessible from La Clé des Montagnes, where you will also find stylish boutique stores, and of course, fine wining and dining. Described as the ‘food and wine heartland of the country’, Franschhoek is home to some of the world’s finest vintages, and guests at La Clé des Montagnes are invited to take a private tour of one of the town’s award-winning estates, where you can create your own unique blend.

Back home, enjoy panoramic views with a

personal butler on hand, or take advantage of gourmet cuisine cooked up by your resident chef.

The Arabian Home

Beit Al Bahar Villas, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai

Dubai is famed for its chic shopping and luxurious hotels, and Jumeirah Beach Hotel has long been a firm favourite amongst Dubai devotees. More recently, the style set can be found frequenting the Beit Al Bahar villas (meaning ‘home by the sea’) which are nestled within the grounds of the resort.

Having recently undergone a refurbishment, the 19 residences are built in the style of a traditional Arabian



Below left & right: Master room and private reception at Beit Al Bahar’s two bedroom villa, Jumeirah Beach Hotel.



Above: Contemporary furnishings in the living room at Le Galerie, La Clé des Montagnes.





*Above left & right:
Views from the Three Bedroom Grand
Ocean View Suite at The Landings;
Four Seasons Resort and Residences
Whistler exterior.*



village. Overlooking the majestic Burj Al Arab, each boasts a private terrace and plunge pool, enveloped in manicured gardens, with the 1.5 kilometre private beach within touching distance.

Inside, opulence is evident at every turn – even the bathrooms are 18 carat gold plated. Sumptuous Persian fabrics, expansive living areas and beautiful artwork combine to create an ambience that is indulgent yet authentic. Each household is assigned a butler, and guests are given unlimited complimentary access to Wild Wadi Waterpark – perfect if the little ones are in tow.

Of course, the facilities of the resort are not to be overlooked. The homes are located perfectly, providing privacy away from the hotel yet easy access when required. With over 19 restaurants, cafes and bars, you're never far from

a wide range of eateries, and there are endless activities including watersports, tennis and golf. Residents of the Beit Al Bahar villas also have access to their own exclusive majlis tent and lounge chairs at the Executive Pool and beach.

The Marina Home *The Landings, St Lucia*

One of St Lucia's most popular boltholes, The Landings has mastered perfectly the blend between hotel and villa living, with luxury 'villa suites' overlooking the private marina, ocean or beachfront. With an almost Floridian feel, the resort is distinctly different to anything else on the island, and is unique with respect to its own marina – guests can admire the impressive yachts and cruisers that dock and depart each day.

First impressions count, and as you enter the grand lobby, with high grandiose ceilings and atmospheric lighting, you are left in no doubt about the standards here. Expectations mount and are suitably exceeded upon entering the spacious suites, some of which come with Jacuzzi plunge pools on the private terrace.

Whilst perfectly positioned for the bars, restaurants and shops of Rodney Bay, the ambience of the marine suites is one of still and serenity; the only distinct sounds are the doves cooing and the bells on the boats.

The nearby beach is one of the best in St Lucia, in fact only Sugar Beach is on a par. Soft, light sand slopes safely into the warm sea, making this an ideal choice for child's play, and we recommend The Beach Club for a refreshing rum-based sundowner.

For dinner, The Palms restaurant is a must. The open-air patio offers romantic views of the marina, which is complimented by live music and fine dining, offering the best in seasonal meats, fresh fish and seafood, cooked on the lava stone grill.

The Piste Home *Four Seasons Resort and Residences, Whistler, Canada*

For many, a ski holiday is a prerequisite in the annual calendar, a time for friends and family to reconnect, hit the slopes and enjoy some après-ski socialising. The Private Residences at Four Seasons Resort Whistler come highly recommended for a memorable experience both on and off piste.

With panoramic views of

the surrounding forest, valley or mountains, the residences take lodge-living to new heights, with a furnished terrace, gourmet kitchen and gas-burning fireplace just some of the highlights of your mountainside retreat.

A ski concierge whisks skis, boots and poles to the nearby lift for hassle-free access to the slopes of Whistler Blackcomb, and, after a day pounding the powder, relax in the spa, heated outdoor pool and whirlpools which are open year-round.

The resort offers sumptuous dining options, including all-day bistro cuisine at Sidecut Bar and incredible steaks at Sidecut Restaurant. Guests are also invited to sample British Columbia's finest wines served with canapés at a daily Manager's wine reception.

The Private Island Home

Jumby Bay Villas and Homes, Antigua

Just a six minute boat ride from the coast of Antigua, the private island exclusivity of Jumby Bay offers white sandy beaches, blue waters blooming with sea life and, arguably, some of the best family accommodation in the Caribbean.

With a blend of sea-view Villas, Beach and Estate Homes; variety is never vexed at Jumby Bay, A Rosewood Resort. Whilst style may vary, all homes come fully staffed with a housekeeper and butler, and offer private pools, ocean views, bicycles and a golf cart.

Those seeking active appeal will love Ty Molineux – an Estate Home complete with

fully equipped gym, spa treatment suite, flood-lit tennis court and outdoor games area. Opening directly onto the beach with exceptional views of the sea and the 20 metre infinity swimming pool, this is the perfect private retreat for families and larger groups.

The European Home

Mandarin Oriental Bodrum, Turkey

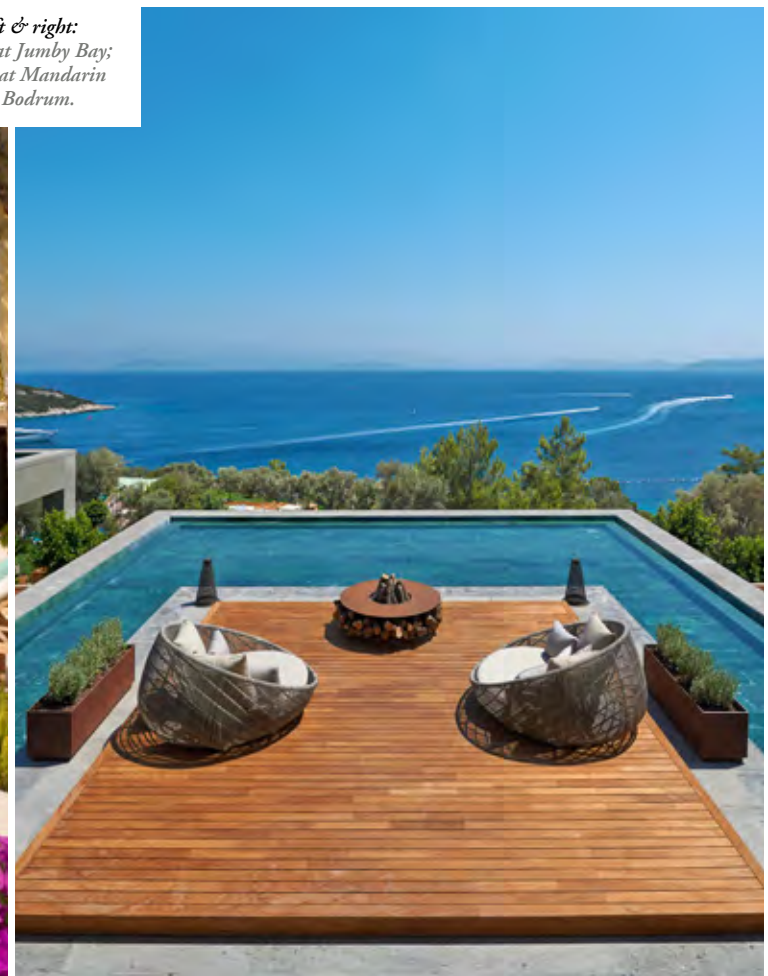
Romping its way up our list of European hot spots, Turkey is definitely en vogue for glitterati getaways this year. Enjoying a secluded position on Paradise Bay, locally known as Cennet Koyu, the villas at this resort blend style, space and scintillating views of the Aegean to create true luxury living.

Residences come in five different styles, all ideal for larger groups, with the smallest sleeping nine. Guests have access to two private sandy beaches as well as plenty of room for entertaining back at the ranch, with indoor and outdoor dining tables, private swimming pool and terrace. The chic apartments also present the charms of staying in a home – spacious, individual and private – with all the convenience and comfort of a hotel.

Details matter; and this certainly rings true here – Acqua di Parma toiletries, Bang & Olufsen televisions and hypoallergenic feather bedding by Ploah all add to the splendour. Of course, a world-class spa, delectable range of eateries and leisure activities are also there to enjoy.



*Below left & right:
Karios Villa at Jumby Bay;
arrival deck at Mandarin
Oriental Bodrum.*



ICONIC *retreat*

Beverly Hills is known worldwide for its grand mansions and chic shops along Rodeo Drive. Equally as revered is the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel, or Pink Palace as it is affectionately known, sitting pretty in a superb location in the centre of Sunset Boulevard. The glitterati have been flocking to the landmark hotel since it first opened in 1912 and the palm-fringed resort resonates with 20th Century glamour. Elizabeth Taylor's father used to manage an art gallery in the lobby and the annual Oscars Party at the art deco hotel is renowned.

The hotel is surrounded by 12 acres of lush, tropical gardens and the palm tree-lined pool is a haven of Californian-luxe. Careful renovations have remained faithful to the original architecture and interior design; nowhere more so than in the famous Polo Lounge. Adorned with stylised geometric prints, this legendary restaurant reflects the iconic allure of the Golden Age of Hollywood. The spirit of Frank Sinatra and his rat pack still lives on – live jazz music plays whilst you sip on a martini and enjoy the famed McCarthy Salad.

Knowledge #29/50

MAURITIUS

To quote Mark Twain: "You gather the idea that Mauritius was made first, and then heaven, and that heaven was copied after Mauritius."

30

Below: Herdade Dos Grous managed by Vila Vita Parc, Portugal.



@BazaarUK's @JPicardie discovers the magic of @LeSirenuseHotel in Positano with @carrierholidays uk.bazaar.com/1CkToCv



34 PRIVILEGED ACCESS

Taking you behind the seemingly closed doors of Italia – including a private tour of the Sistine Chapel.

37 BEYOND THE VINES

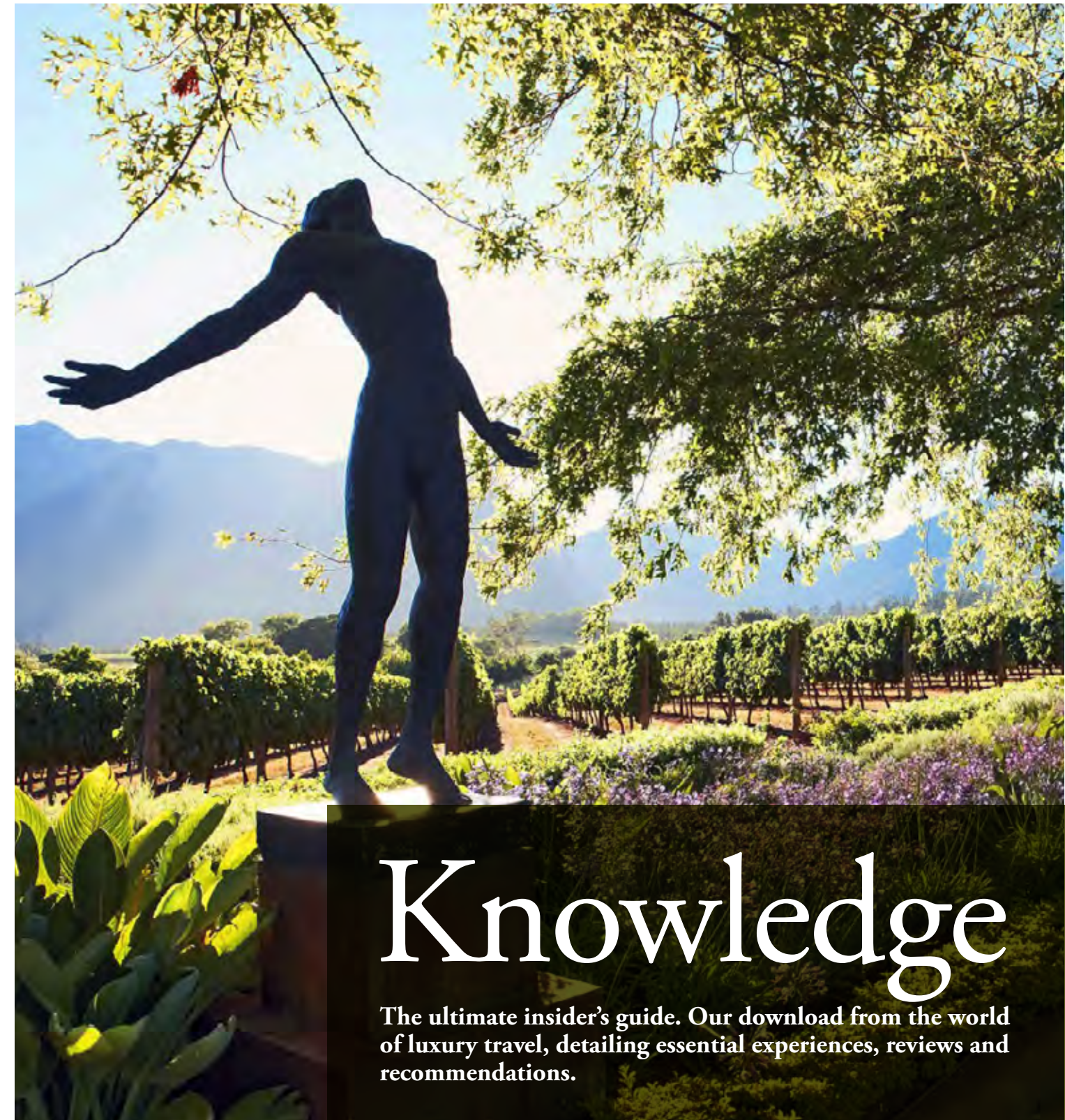
We decant some of the superb ways to enjoy wine around the world, from destinations already capturing connoisseurs to more hidden treasures.

46 MARITIME MEMOIRS

Explore the lapping waves of luxury aboard one of the Regent Seven Seas Cruises®.

47 A WINTER OF CONTENT

Where to spend this winter? Whether you want to escape the weather, shop, ski or safari, we've got the season under wraps.



Knowledge

The ultimate insider's guide. Our download from the world of luxury travel, detailing essential experiences, reviews and recommendations.

MAURITIUS

To state that Mauritius is an island of exceptional beauty and holiday destination par excellence goes without saying. Yet to really get under the skin of what the island has to offer you must look beyond the superb beaches, exceptional hotels and the glistening waters of the Indian Ocean. Do this and you will be rewarded.

A mélange of French, Creole, Indian and African influences permeate the island, most noticeably in its delectable cuisine. A verdant interior backdrop of jagged peaks, colonial sugar plantations and fields makes for a striking dichotomy. And then there's the rum. The sweet, smooth and dangerously moreish rum – just one of the many things that will make you fall a little bit in love with this beautiful island.

As if you needed another reason to be utterly beguiled by this jewel in the Indian Ocean, Shangri-La's signature service, gastronomy and style have now arrived in Mauritius. Known for some of the premier luxury hotels in the world, the established competition is being challenged – proof that there is no room for complacency on the island.

Le Touessrok is already a hotel firmly entrenched in the hearts of long-standing Mauritius faithfuls and Shangri-La's fusion of western modernity with eastern traditions is certain to complement the already outstanding offering when it re-opens as **Shangri-La's Le Touessrok Resort & Spa** in November 2015. Shangri-La means 'a secluded hideaway of great beauty' and the name is spot-on. Take a boat to one of two nearby idyllic islands – both very different yet equally as striking. Ile aux Cerfs is home to an 18-hole par 72 championship golf course, restaurants, craft stalls and a watersports centre. Exclusive to guests, castaway-chic is more the vibe to be found on the private island of Ilot Mangénie; the only one of its kind in Mauritius, with hammocks suspended between palm trees and its own sophisticated beach club accessible to hotel guests.

The rooms are being given a Shangri-La facelift – the design is being crafted by the renowned P49 Deesign, whose impressive portfolio includes Six Senses Laamu, Maldives and projects for Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons and Conrad. Expect an earthy colour palette and natural materials that reflect the rich tapestry of colour found outside the rooms amongst the verdant gardens.

Shangri-La's cuisine is also eagerly anticipated. Four restaurants will showcase diverse

international fare, with Indian favourite Safran remaining part of the offering – guests will love the traditional Hindu blessing at the door. Unique to Mauritius, enjoy sashimi prepared by the most skilled master sushi chef to be found on the island at Kushi, international fare at the hotel's new all-day dining restaurant, Le Bazar and Mediterranean cuisine and barbeque grills at Republik Beach Club & Grill.

Indulgent, yet down-to-earth, Shangri-La's popular CHI Spa concept based on traditional eastern healing philosophies, will also make a welcome appearance. The focus is on Chinese and Ayurvedic treatments which are designed to allow the universal life force or 'chi' to flow freely within the body. Invigorating scrubs, refreshing facials and soothing massages use ingredients sourced from its own garden.

Shangri-La may be throwing down the gauntlet, but the hotel considered by many to be the grande dame of luxury resorts in Mauritius – **One&Only Le Saint Géran** – need not be concerned. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the hotel is somewhat of a Mauritian institution. What really entices guests to return is the exceptional service and intimate setting on the Belle Mare Peninsula. Bounded on one side by a cove and on the other by a coral-sheltered bay, it is the ideal spot for the hotel's unlimited watersports. Happily, some of the original staff are still on hand to welcome back loyal clientele who return year after year, now accompanied by their children and even grandchildren; the perfect place for a true multi-generational holiday in Mauritius.

WHAT REALLY ENTICES GUESTS TO RETURN IS THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND INTIMATE SETTING ON THE BELLE MARE PENINSULA. BOUNDED ON ONE SIDE BY A COVE AND ON THE OTHER BY A CORAL-SHELTERED BAY.



Clockwise from above
Aerial view of Le Morne Brabant peninsula; One&Only Le Saint Géran: thatched umbrellas along the shoreline, main pool, Junior Suite Ocean View; Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita: exterior view, Sanctuary Pool Villa.





Above & right
The Residence
Mauritius: Colonial
Oceanfront suite,
beach loungers.



Clockwise from left
Shangri-La's
Le Touessrok:
welcome lounge,
hammock on Trou
d'Eau Douce Bay;
solitary sailing; Sega
dancing at sunset.



Dotted around the island, numerous sugar plantation houses echo the island's colonial history. If you visit just one, make sure it's the Eureka residence. The perfectly preserved Créole mansion provides incredible insight into the plantation's past – follow the trail at the back of the property and you will find the impressive Ravin waterfall.

Many of the newer buildings on the island pay homage to this heritage and none more so than **The Residence Mauritius**. Beginning in the lobby, plantation-style architecture evokes the elegance of a bygone era; an influence found throughout the resort. The aptly named Planters Kids Club is nestled in a small colonial-style lodge a few steps away from the immaculate beach and fresh seafood can be enjoyed at the beachside Plantation Restaurant.

Private butler service for each suite completes the imperial feel and epitomises the impeccable service Mauritians are known for – allow your butler to draw you a bath with your chosen fragrance. We recommend Ylang Ylang for its association with the hotel – whether found in the ornate bouquets placed proudly on pedestal tables around the resort or on the warm ceramic rings by the bedside.

The Mauritian people are rightly proud of their island home, want to protect it and learn from the lessons of the Dodo's slide into extinction. As such, The Residence is committed to the island's conservation and can organise tours to the nearby Ile aux Aigrettes in partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF). Accompanied by a trained ranger, head to this small 27 hectare island and you will spot rare giant tortoises, bats and once-threatened creatures including the pink pigeon that gives its name to the much-loved Mauritian rum. If you're feeling inspired, you can make a donation to the MWF via reception on your return to the hotel.

Mauritius and Four Seasons are already two words synonymous with luxury and relaxation but the latest additions to **Four Seasons Resort Mauritius at Anahita** give new meaning to this association. Already boasting picturesque stand-alone accommodation dotted around the mangroves, along the shore and amongst the bougainvillea-clad gardens, six new and exclusive Sanctuary Pool Villas are sure to further increase the appeal.

Offering panoramic lagoon or beach views, these one bedroom villas are designed so that you can be as private or sociable as you wish, and feature extended heated infinity pools with outdoor

RUM'S THE WORD

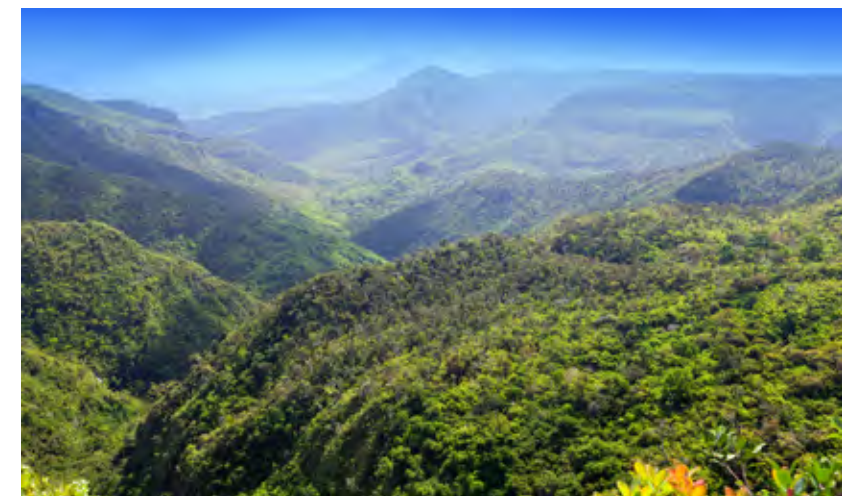
Of the many different types of rum available thanks to the island's colonial history as a hub for sugar cane production, Pink Pigeon is perhaps one of the better known. Named after the once-endangered bird that is now thriving in Mauritius, the subtle flavours of vanilla, citrus and orchid combine to make the signature taste. For every bottle purchased, a donation is made to the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF).



salas. Centrally located and great for families, the spacious suites boast generous sofa beds – perfect for little ones who are sure to love saying hello to the resort's giant aladabra tortoises Ceasar and Neptune.

The recently renovated three bedroom Presidential Suite Sanctuary is also worthy of note. Perched majestically on the tip of the resort's private island – a prime location – this hideaway boasts a new master bedroom that looks out onto an infinity pool – perfect for watching the sun rise. Larger parties can extend this space into a five bedroom sanctuary by connecting to the two neighbouring Ocean Pool Villas via an outside corridor.

A minute's stroll away you'll find Bambou, the beachside restaurant. Here you can watch traditional Sega dancing – part opera, part group dance that increases in tempo, the women dance in vibrant, colourful ruffled skirts. Warning: some audience participation may be required.



OUT AND ABOUT

The island's capital Port Louis makes for an ideal day trip. To get a feel for the historic city it is well worth trekking up to the citadel for the sensational views. From here, you may spot the racecourse of Port Louis – still a popular attraction – and the port from which sugar and fish are exported across the world. Alternatively, visit the open air markets and boutiques at Central Flacq, the heart of local life and traditions, with its myriad of colours, fabrics, arts, crafts, fruit, spices and local delicacies.





PRIVILEGED ACCESS

Imagine standing alone in the heart of the Colosseum, looking up at the immense and ancient structure, a modern-day gladiator, or gazing up at the intricate murals of the Sistine Chapel in the serene silence of solitude. We have the network of contacts to make these imaginings reality.

Above: Views of Santa Maria della Salute Basilica from The Redentore Terrazza Suite at Gritti Palace, Venice.

Opposite page: Grand Canal views from Gritti Palace, Venice; The Column of Abundance from the Repubblica Suite at Hotel Savoy, Florence.

Culture, archaeology, art and cuisine – Italy is recognised for them all. Here we uncover the exclusive access that we can offer to the hidden piazzas, ancient wonders and artistic masterpieces that this inspirational country has to offer.

Designed in the early 19th Century by the renowned architect Giuseppe Valadier, **Hotel de Russie, a Rocco Forte Hotel** is the perfect stylish base for discovering the archaeological wonders of Rome. Centrally located in the heart of the city, the property is set between the Piazza del Popolo and the Spanish Steps. Only a short walk from both The Vatican and The Colosseum, we can arrange out of hours private visits to both of these iconic monuments. You can gaze above at the famous frescoes of the Sistine Chapel or stand underground within the ancient amphitheatre in complete

exclusivity, enjoying plenty of time and space contemplating your surroundings and absorbing the history-soaked atmosphere in a way that only a few ever do.

Well-known for affording their guests a true taste of the location, Rocco Forte Hotels have taken personal training sessions to a whole new level at Hotel de Russie. For those of you who want to nourish both the body and soul, stay in shape with World Triathlon Champion, Danilo Palmucci. Danilo will accompany you on a unique jogging experience through the Eternal City. Wellness enthusiasts can mix exercise and culture as he guides you around some of Rome's most secret corners.

Florence is revered as the heart of the Italian Renaissance, with outstanding churches and captivating art museums designed and built by

some of the most illustrious artists of all time. Just steps away from one of the most visited museums – the Accademia Gallery – you will find the chic and stylish **Hotel Savoy, a Rocco Forte Hotel** located in the centre of Florence. Together with the hotel's impressive concierge, we can obtain gallery tickets in advance with skip-the-line access; a superb way to glimpse the world-renowned imposing marble statue of David, created by the genius Michelangelo.

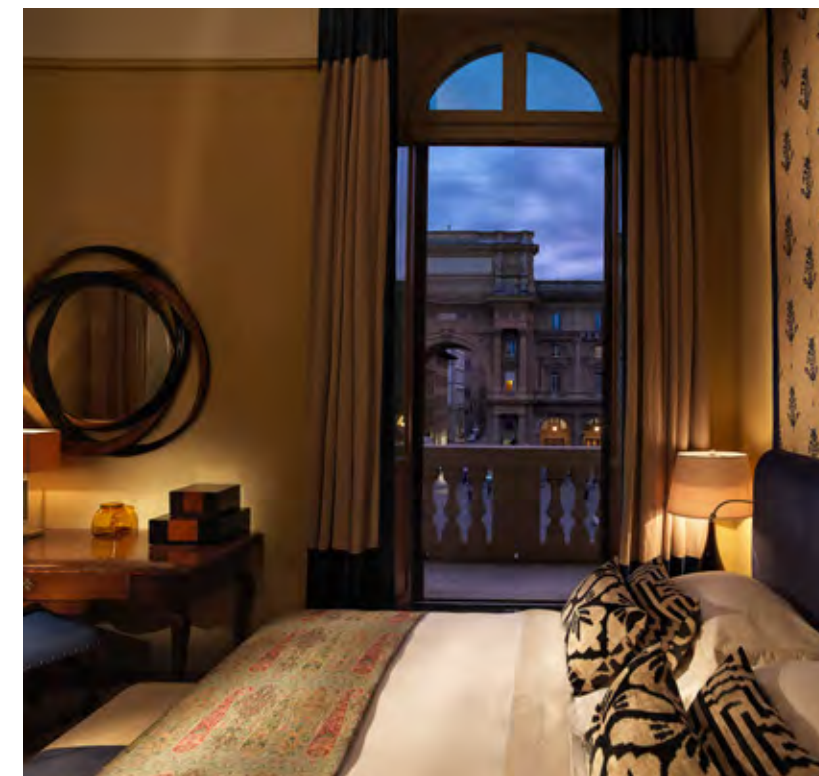
Dating back to 1564, a little-known passageway was built to allow the Grand Duke of Florence, Cosimo I de' Medici and his family to journey from their home, Palazzo Pitti, to the other side of the River Arno and onto the Palazzo della Signoria, the government palace. Stroll down the Vasari Corridor – an astounding architectural masterpiece of the Renaissance – we can arrange a private tour of the newly opened walkway. Before your tour, we recommend visiting the must-see halls of the Uffizi Gallery, the home of classic treasures from Leonardo da Vinci and Filippo Lippi.

A country famed for its art-filled hotels, Italy is immersed in history and the 16th Century **Gritti Palace, A Luxury Collection Hotel**, is the perfect place to discover exceptional paintings and true Venetian architecture. Occupying a prominent spot on the Grand Canal, elite global influencers flock to the former Venetian Palace for reputable events such as the Biennale of Contemporary Art and the Venice Film Festival. As part of the hotel's Destination Discoveries, a concierge-curated experience series, The Gritti Palace has arranged an exclusive, limited tour unveiling the hotel's artistic gems. Throughout its history as a private palazzo and a luxury hotel, exceptional fine art, cherished antiques and treasured furniture have been collected. An antique expert leads the tour, providing a wealth of knowledge about these unique pieces.

Not only popular for its fascinating art, Italian gastronomy causes a stir with foodies from all nations. Sharpen up your culinary skills in one of the best epicurean schools in Venice and learn the secrets of Italian cooking from The Gritti Palace's Executive Chef, Daniele Turco.



Soak in vistas of the Grand Canal from a traditional bacaro whilst you sip on a typical Venetian aperitivo.



Protected by its extraordinary position on the precipitous hillsides above the bay, the small town of Positano retains an air of magical and unique exclusivity. Justine Picardie stayed at the now-legendary Le Sirenuse, an honour enjoyed by the privileged few.



The half-day private classes begin by sourcing local ingredients from one of the oldest food fairs in Venice, the Rialto Market. Before heading back to the kitchen at the hotel for the cooking lesson, soak in vistas of the Grand Canal from a traditional bacaro whilst you sip on a typical Venetian aperitivo and snack on delicious cicchetti. A three-day stay and cook course is offered for budding gastronomes who wish to journey deeper into the Italian flavours.



Justine Picardie
Editor in chief at
Harper's Bazaar

"Le Sirenuse is at the heart of Positano, and is as alluring as its name suggests. Such is the pleasure to be had sitting on a balcony outside one's bedroom, admiring the view over the rooftops of the village, or lounging beside the pool, lulled by the scent of lemon trees, roses and bougainvillea, that it is tempting not to stray beyond the hotel. But that would be a pity, for Positano is a place that calls to be explored on foot.

The stone steps that circle upwards into the mountains are enthralling, leading to a mountain trail known as the Path of the Gods. Hundreds

of steps up this pathway and you experience a dreamlike sense of timelessness, the clouds wreathing the mountain peaks above, the blue sea below; I half expected to see the shadow of a Roman god – Bacchus or Mercury, perhaps – disappearing just out of sight, into the shade of ancient oaks and fig-trees. But instead, there were only the tiny, darting lizards, and white butterflies, always ahead of me, fluttering in a gentle breeze, and the gentle call of chiming church bells in Positano, with the promise of a long, cold drink on a peaceful terrace at Le Sirenuse..."

beyond the vine

Liven up the way you experience wine around the world with our pick of the best options for oenophiles. Choose from a secret wine cave, a unique wine tram, hands-on harvests and the opportunity to create your own blend.



Fully charged or deliciously mellow, the world is full of inspiring locations producing fantastic vintages and offering unique experiences for wine lovers.

Vila Vita Parc Resort & Spa boasts its own wine estate and working farm, Herdade Dos Grous, a one hour drive inland from the beach resort, in the Alentejo. With almost 1,500 acres of vineyards, flowering gardens, olive and orange groves, it represents the current pioneering spirit of Portugal's wine-growing business like no other. The passionate work of oenologist, Luis Duarte, is clear to see at the estate. Originating from the Douro, Luis has established himself as one of the most respected Alentejo wine consultants. He has revolutionised winemaking in the area with the amalgamation of indigenous grape varieties and ancient processes, whilst utilising the latest technology and developments in viticulture. Alentejo is home to old grape varieties such as Trincadeira or Arangonez and the region is known for its robust vintages due to the soil's content of

lime, loam, sand and, particularly magnesium. With award-winning show jumping horses and stallions bred here, exploring the vineyards on horseback is a must and the best way to appreciate the beauty of the grounds.

In our opinion, fine wine should always be accompanied by fine dining and both these things are likely to be at the very heart of your stay at Vila Vita Parc in the Algarve. Epicurean delights can be had at eight impressive restaurants, including a two Michelin-starred venue, supplied with vintages and fresh organically-grown produce from the estate. Wine tastings and pairings are also available in the fabulous arched wine cellar, Cave de Vinhos, located 26 feet below the ground.

Another region that could be considered a little off the beaten track of the more renowned wine routes, is Overberg in South Africa. Nestled between the Garden Route and the Cape Peninsula, the southernmost vineyards in the continent can be found in this area. The slower ripening of grapes

Above: Herdade Dos Grous managed by Vila Vita Parc, Portugal.

Secret wine cellar

*For those looking for a dramatic location for their wine pairings, we would recommend the Secret Wine Cave at **Mystique** in Santorini, Greece. As exclusive and covert as it sounds, the 150 year old ancient wine cellar holds some of the rarest and indigenous wines to the island. Think low lights, cool brick walls, flickering candles and long-undisturbed bottles.*

(due to the maritime climate) really sets the wines of the region apart. **Grootbos Private Nature Reserve** is the ideal base to venture through the charming rural towns to discover these wine-pockets. There are three different tours that allow guests to take in this fairly new wine region and spend time with the practiced farmers and, in addition, Grootbos is a superb venue to sample the local blend. Find the intimate wine cellar by descending down a vanilla-scented candlelit staircase, where resident sommelier, Eben, is on hand to take you through the extensive menu. Opt for the gastronomical six-course food pairing accompanied with commentary by executive chef, Benjamin; it's reinvented every day should you want to indulge more than once during your stay!

Heading further north into the Cape Winelands – South Africa's most prestigious wine region – and also celebrating both old and new methods similar to Vila Vita Parc, is the state-of-the-art winery at **Delaire Graff Estate**. Nestled between mountains, the lodges here offer beautifully dramatic views overlooking the steep sloping vineyards of Stellenbosch. Join resident wine maker, Morné Vrey, a passionate and accomplished expert in the field, for a private tasting of the Delaire Graff wines. Morné's vision is a simple one: honest, authentic winemaking that captures the natural flavours and intensity of the grapes without over manipulation. Retreat to the dedicated wine lounge; it's a wonderful space scattered with pieces of art from owner, Laurence Graff's personal collection, and with the most breathtaking, uninterrupted views of the valley.

Moving even deeper into the Cape Winelands, Franschhoek is arguably the foodie capital of South Africa and on many a connoisseurs' wish list of places to visit. The wine tram tour is the ideal way to explore the 300 year history of the area. A unique open-sided tram rolls through picturesque estates, stopping at some of the country's oldest and most distinguished vineyards for complimentary tastings. **Mont Rochelle**, Sir Richard Branson's most recently opened retreat in Africa, is one of the stops, and rightly so as the quality of the wine here is incredible and exceptionally good value. The annual Franschhoek Uncorked Festival, takes place during the last weekend in September, where a number of wine farms open their doors for free tastings of the new vintage.

For experiences a little more tropical, **Curtain Bluff** in Antigua boasts one of the finest cellars in the Caribbean. George the



*Arabella Dupont
Retail Editor & Events Director
at Brides Magazine*

“Curtain Bluff is fabulous for foodies – it's all-inclusive and literally everything is included from scrumptious local conch ceviche to juicy fillet steak. Make sure you check out the hidden wine cellar to sample some seriously quaffable tipples, all ingeniously sourced by the inhouse sommelier George. Ask him for a private tour or join one of the Friday tastings – an extra cost but well worth it for wine buffs.”



Below: Anton Smit 'Faith' sculpture and gardens at Delaire Graff Estate, South Africa.



sommelier has trained in France and the California wine country and carefully selects wines from ten countries around the world. Stocked with the likes of Chateau Petrus 1997 and Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1990, the cellar here is not just a gallery and all wines are available to purchase. Be sure to stop over in the tasting room on a Friday afternoon for George’s wine tastings. One of the first luxury hotels on the island, Curtain Bluff has always been made to feel like you are staying in the home of a personal friend, extremely relaxed and welcoming.

Thoughts of far-flung atolls don’t necessarily conjure images of extensive wine collections, yet **Conrad Maldives Rangali Island** both surprises and impresses with the country’s first underground wine cellar. As you enter, you are at once struck by the amber-lit floor-to-ceiling frames holding an exceptionally impressive 20,000 bottles that surround the room. On either Tuesday or Friday evenings, up to 12 guests can take part in interactive lessons and tastings with the sommelier, complete with personal video screens rising up from the central table. At other times before or after dinner, choose the cheese and wine bar – hand-picked by the resort’s Maitre de Fromage, it is stocked with 101 of the best cheeses from around the globe. After stepping through soft white sand throughout the resort, the most noticeable feature in the room is

Tour medieval tunnels

*The neglected medieval village of **Il Borro** in Tuscany was discovered by Ferruccio, son of the famous shoemaker Salvatore Ferragamo whilst out hunting in the 1980s. After initiating a winemaking revival in 1995, the vineyards and cellars are now the beating heart of the estate. The wine tour is exceptional; with the cellar and underground tunnels that are a unique (if slightly chilly!) setting for wine tastings. Ferruccio even has a personal wine-themed art collection in the Galleria.*



the contrasting black volcanic sand floor, imported from New Zealand. With the widest choice of dining compared to any other resort in the Maldives, Conrad offers a gastronomic variety for any traveller with a refined palate and an appreciation of fine wines.



Art in the vineyard

A peaceful start to the day at **Calistoga Ranch** in Napa Valley can be had by creating your own landscape painting overlooking the vineyard with a one-on-one session with the resident artist. For those wanting more active pursuits, follow the journey from vine to bottle and visit during harvest season – gather grapes at the resort’s Sotero vineyard, blend your own wine and learn bottling techniques from the winemakers.

New cellar in the Caribbean

For something a little more rustic, a new wine cellar at **Petit St Vincent** in The Grenadines is a welcome addition to this private island. With an already impressive menu and 4,500 bottles of both New World and Old World wines to choose from, the sommelier is continuously searching for newer and more interesting wines to add to the list. Low-key luxury at its best, a selection of Cognac-style rums from all over the Caribbean have also been collected, as have fine whiskeys and Cuban cigars.

Australia’s oldest wineries

When it comes to premium cellar doors, the Barossa Valley, South Australia is home to some of Australia’s oldest wineries. **Kingsford Homestead** makes the perfect retreat for wine buffs and sits on the North Para River. A map marked with famous historic local wineries is offered to guests looking to explore, as well as a few well-kept secrets where you can taste the boutique wines of the region.



Laurence Graff Reserve 2011

Delaire Graff’s most memorable, sophisticated vintage claret. Silky and smooth, the flavour is dominated by tangy, ripe, almost over-ripe red berries together with brambles and cassis.



Il Borro Igt Toscana 2011

Il Borro has an intense ruby colour, with purplish reflections. The bouquet is full and intense, concentrated, with notes of underbrush and with spicy scents. The taste is dry, with a good body.



Opposite page
Dinner by the Forest Lodge boma at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, South Africa; private dining on a secluded beach and impressive interactive wine cellar at Conrad Maldives.

Above
Sunset canapés by the pool at Delaire Graff Estate, South Africa; Kingsford Homestead, Barossa Valley, South Australia; wine tasting with George the sommelier at Curtain Bluff, Antigua.

SPORTING CHANCE

Thoughts are already turning to the next instalment of the world's biggest sporting event – the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. We catch up with sporting stars in Carrier destinations around the world to talk about their Olympic memories and preparation.



Equestrianism was debuted at the Paris Games in 1900, and then withdrawn until the 1912 Games in Stockholm. Since, the sport has appeared at every Olympic event, with disciplines including Dressage, Eventing and Jumping. Interestingly, until 1948 only men competed in the events, as riders had to be officers. Zara Phillips fans will love the Equestrian Centre at the luxurious *Half Moon, A RockResort* in Jamaica. Managed by former show jumper Trina DeLisser, guests are given access to 28 well-groomed mounts, a pony park, jumping and dressage arena and polo lessons. Perhaps the most unique

experience to be enjoyed here is known as the 'Turf and Surf' – an opportunity to be guided into the cerulean Caribbean Sea to swim with your horse. The ride begins with a few turns in the arena and a jaunt past Dolphin Lagoon (a natural large ocean pool brimming with dolphins), before cantering onto the beach. Here, you can enter the cool waters for a refreshing paddle with your horse. A skilled guide is on hand per every two guests, ensuring a very personal and attentive experience.

Riders of all levels are welcome, with a 'Rookie Round-Up' on offer for newcomers or those needing practice, and private lessons available for all. Children

will adore the Pony Park – think stables come petting zoo; a haven for many abandoned or stray animals, the Park is home to donkeys, rabbits, goats, birds and resident ponies Cyd and DeVito.

Half Moon is dedicated to the wellbeing of both animals and guests, promoting education through interaction and life skills. The Empowerment Sessions at the centre offer a mind-led experience, honing skills using body language to communicate with a horse. After a day channelling your inner Doctor Dolittle, make your way to Sunrise Beach for a barbeque buffet and enjoy a delicious blend of grill and hot pots, as well as performances from local entertainers.



“Here at Half Moon, we are extremely passionate about what we do and have long been successful in rehoming injured horses and bringing them back to good health at the centre. Alongside

this work, the most fulfilling element of my job here is teaching individuals who want to learn everything about horses. Guests at the resort seem to thoroughly enjoy the beach ride – Turf & Surf. It is quite a unique activity that takes riders out, with a guide, to go swimming with the horses. We teach many different disciplines here and my favourite to teach is jumping. This goes back to when I was growing up in Jamaica and taking my mother's furniture into the garden so I could jump. I am very much looking forward to watching the equestrian sports at Rio 2016, in particular the show jumping.”

Trina DeLisser is the Director of Half Moon Equestrian Centre and has represented Jamaica in the sport of show jumping.

“Flagstaff is the perfect location... high altitude, great weather, miles of great trails to run and loads of coffee shops for relaxing between hard training sessions.”



Tom Lancashire

Tom is a middle distance runner specialising in the 1,500m. He has represented Great Britain on the track, and has competed at Olympic, World, Commonwealth and European Championships. In 2010 he ran a PB of 3:33.09 for 1,500m at the Brussels Diamond League, a time which was the fastest by a British athlete for 5 years. In the same year he also ran the fastest mile time by anyone in Europe, 3:53.39. He is also an accomplished cross-country runner and has represented Great Britain several times.

Opposite page & above:
Horse-riding on the beach and West Cottages at Half Moon, Jamaica.
Left: Tom Lancashire at the altitude training camp in Flagstaff.





Giles Scott is a sailor with Land Rover BAR – the team hoping to bring the America’s Cup back home to Britain after 167 years. Giles is also aiming for gold at Rio 2016.

“The Cup is absolutely the pinnacle sailing event; you have some of the best sailors in the world who this time round will be competing in super-fast foiling boats, which is really helping to change the face of the sport. As a sailing venue, Bermuda is a real challenge, it is such a tight course and the wind is really variable out in the middle of the Atlantic, but that’s what makes it more fun – we love sailing there. Bermuda is just the most beautiful island; the people are so warm and friendly and are really excited about having the Cup there.”

*Clockwise from left
Rosewood Tucker’s Point, Bermuda:
Beach Club, aerial view; Capella
Marigot Bay, St Lucia: Marina at
dusk, Resort View King Bedroom.*

Sail Away
Sailing at the Olympics started in Athens, 1896, but international yacht racing actually began much earlier; in 1851 members of the New York Yacht Club built a 101 foot schooner named America and sailed to England. The trophy eventually became known as The America’s Cup, the oldest competition in the sport’s history.
Bermuda is the home of the 2017 America’s Cup, with the World Series – a racing circuit featuring the best sailors in the world competing on foiling, wing-sailed catamarans – starting in late 2015. Comprised of 181 islands and spanning 21 square miles, water-based activities are at the heart of the destination. **Rosewood Tucker’s Point** graces 200 acres of beautiful waterfront, with exceptional panoramas over Castle Harbour. Guests can learn to sail in a one or two-person

Super Snark sailboat, designed for simplicity and safety. On board, the basics of sailing are taught by resident instructors.
Of course St Lucia is renowned for superb sailing conditions and beautiful little harbours and with lush rainforest and sandy beaches the island is visually striking. At **Capella Marigot Bay Resort and Marina**, sailing is engrained into everyday life. Premier yachts from around the world drop anchor at Capella Marina, and the resort makes it possible for all to set sail aboard private boat or yacht. Discover secluded coves, snorkel bountiful reefs or simply relax; enjoy the sunshine and sea breeze – we recommend a sunset sail, a magical and memorable Caribbean evening experience. Charters are also available for half or full day trips, dinner cruises and overnight trips.

Above Par
Rio 2016 will be the first time in over a century that the world’s best golfers will be part of the Games. With the allure of a gold medal, some of the sport’s biggest names are expected to compete.

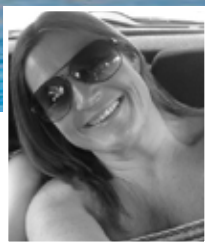
Located just south of the equator, in the heart of the Indian Ocean, lies the island of Seenu Atoll – home to **Shangri-La’s Villingili Resort & Spa**. Golfers have no need to down their clubs on their Maldivian holiday at this resort, with a 7.5 hectare nine-hole golf course available, including par three and par four holes, the course offers significant challenges after each tee.
Even the most seasoned of players are sure to be impressed with the vistas that accompany their game. Fairways are lined with exotic plants and coconut palms, white sandy beaches and the rich vibrancy of the Indian Ocean.

Winter Wonderland
Still inspired by the successes of the Sochi athletes? Don’t wait until 2018 – ski or snowboard with an Olympian at Whistler Blackcomb. Carrier can co-ordinate with our experts on the ground to give you a day on the piste with an array of snow superstars, such as Canadian gold medallist Ashleigh McIvor.



*Clockwise from above
Villingili Golf Course; skiing in
Whistler; golfer in the Maldives;
gondola at Whistler Blackcomb;
Beach Villa and private pool
at Shangri-La’s Villingili
Resort & Spa.*





MARITIME MEMOIRS

Fiona Greenhalgh, Head of Product & Commercial at Carrier, has just returned from a Mediterranean sojourn aboard the Regent Seven Seas Mariner®. Here are the highlights from her trip with one of the leaders in luxury cruising.

Enjoying my morning jog in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea was a relatively bizarre experience. Yet a few days into my 11 day jaunt aboard the Regent Seven Seas Mariner®, I realised anything is possible on this super-ship.

Not one to sit still, I sampled every activity possible. Playing tennis with the Old Town of Ibiza providing the ultimate backdrop was a particular highlight, and I quickly became accustomed to a different view from my balcony each day. Breakfast was enjoyed overlooking the bustling city of Palma; the serene mountains of Cagliari accompanied by a chilled glass of wine in the afternoon. The ever-changing scenery is the unassuming companion that makes the trip so memorable.

A newcomer to cruise, I was fascinated. The organisation that goes into such impeccable service is mind-blowing, as is the standard of, well, everything. All-inclusive translates as speciality restaurants and stylish cocktails (I recommend the Champagne 75) whilst entertainment comes in the form of live jazz, West End performers and ice sculptors. Back in my suite, I was delighted with my walk-in wardrobe, L'Occitane products, and my very first 'block party' – an opportunity to mingle with your near neighbours as staff serve drinks up and down the corridor. Safe to say, I'm already planning next year's voyage.

CARRIER RECOMMENDS

Venice to Barcelona: *Departing from the romantic City of Bridges, this 10 day cruise takes in a chocolate box of Mediterranean destinations, exploring the crystalline waters of Croatia, the Amalfi Coast and the designer streets of Monaco. Bid your European escapade adios from the glittering city of Barcelona.*



WATER WORLD

It may take longer than 80 days, in fact it takes 128, but Regent Seven Seas Cruises® and just 490 guests will kick-start 2017 by exploring six continents, 33 countries, 62 ports and 29 UNESCO World Heritage sites on the World Cruise.

Starting in Miami on 05 January 2017, this phenomenal expedition aboard the Regent Seven Seas Navigator® will dock and anchor at the world's most unique destinations including Hawaii, French Polynesia, Burma, Bermuda and Sydney.

Winter is on the horizon and, as the nights draw in and temperatures drop, it is easy to drift off on thoughts of travels around the world. Whether it be the comforting simplicity of a holiday to sunnier climes, the thrill and adventure of a safari expedition, a little Christmas shopping indulgence or a quintessential ski holiday to snowy mountain peaks – here are our suggestions for a seasonal escape.



A WINTER OF CONTENT

Above & below: White sand beach at Rosewood Mayakoba; Mayan ruins along the Yucatan Peninsula.

Sun / The Riviera Maya could be considered the perfect beach destination. Expansive swathes of blinding white sand; check. The bluest of warm blue seas; check. Pretty much guaranteed sunshine; check. Yet to merely focus on the beach would be to do a disservice to this culturally intriguing land. **Rosewood Mayakoba** is an oasis of luxury nestling in a 1,600 acre resort on the Yucatan Peninsula and, yes of course, boasts a mile-long stretch of the aforementioned white sand. It is also perfectly positioned – just north of the pretty waterfront town of Playa del Carmen – to explore all that this captivating part of the world has to offer.

The resort works hard to ensure that guests have the opportunity to immerse

themselves in the rich heritage of the destination by arranging bespoke private tours. The lush natural landscape is a draw in itself; UNESCO World Heritage site *Sian Ka'an* is the first established Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, and the beauty of the location is really quite dramatic. Another natural wonder of the Yucatan are cenotes; enigmatically spectacular, these formations were sacred places for the Mayan civilisation. Cenote *Ik Kil* is considered to be one of the most scenic; waterfalls cascade 85 feet down the sides and lush green vegetation hangs all the way down to the crystal clear water.

Close by you will also find *Chichen Itza*. Steeped in Mayan lore, this incredible archaeological site is one of the new Seven Wonders of

the World and no sojourn to the Riviera Maya would be complete without a visit to the ancient city. The main attraction – *El Castillo* – is the huge 1,500 year old Kukulkan pyramid, so intricately built that during each Vernal Equinox, the dying sun casts a shadow of a serpent writhing down the enormous steps.

After a day filled with Mayan exploration, return to the sanctuary of the resort – there are few better places to kick back, relax and reminisce than in your suite with private plunge pool and rooftop sundeck. The design of the accommodations is rooted in Yucatan heritage blended with strikingly modern accents and crafted from indigenous materials. And, as the sun begins to set on another marvellously Mayan day, head down to Agave Azul and sample some heavenly sushi and ceviche accompanied, of course, by a tequila-infused Margherita.

OPTING FOR AN ESCAPE TO THE SUN?

And you want a mix of culture and beach? Travel from London Heathrow or Manchester with Singapore Airlines for a dream twin-centre escape to Bali via fast-paced Singapore.

Continually voted the best airline in the world (recently awarded the Condé Nast Traveller's 'World's Best Airline' for the 23rd time) there will be no doubt that you'll receive top-notch service. Upgrade to Business Class – the seats are the widest you will find in the world. Currently in its Golden Jubilee year, the ultimate playground of Singapore boasts thrilling rides at Universal Studios Singapore™, hot riverside spots like Clarke Quay and a multitude of areas

to discover such as Little India. It is now also going to house the largest collection of Southeast Asian art in the world; the National Gallery opens in November. And when you've experienced enough of the effervescent ebullience and you're yearning for a slower pace of life, the onward journey to the lagoons and lily pads of Bali is just two and a half hours. The beautiful beaches and the island's beating cultural heart of Ubud is not to be missed.



Below: Candlelit pool dining at the Pioneer Camp, Londolozi Private Game Reserve.

Safari /

Set in the heart of the game-rich Sabi Sand Reserve and world famous for its leopard viewing, **Londolozi** is one of the original pioneering Private Game Reserves of the ecotourism industry in South Africa. In Zulu, the word londolozi means 'protector of all living things' and this ethos is true of the ambitious conservation efforts of the family-run lodge.

Christa D'Souza

Contributing Editor to Vogue
"The world is divided into those who get the safari experience and those who don't. I belong to the latter group, or I did until I visited Londolozi – the super-luxurious, private eco-reserve on the edge of Kruger National Park. Why? Well, where to start? The troupe of vervet monkeys on my verandah overlooking the banks of the Sand River as I

was administered the best thai massage of my life? The stilton, strawberry, and smashed peanut brittle salad (think Ottolenghi in the veldt)? The leopards so close you can smell their breath? Or maybe it is the Vartys themselves, Shan, Dave and their two children, Boyd and Bronwyn, whose family have run the place for 86 years. Oh, and the stories your hosts have to tell round the camp fire. Like when Boyd, who has been tracking since the age of 10, nearly got eaten by a crocodile. Or when a woolly-headed stork flew into the family Cessna and they nearly crashed? But don't let their adventurousness put you off. You'll be snug as a bug here, mollycoddled within an inch of life and yet somehow feel reborn like the intrepid free-spirited adventurer you never thought you were. Oh, Londolozi, when can I come back?"

Shopping /

Some cities suit a season and, arguably, New York is the belle of the winter ball. Cold, yes, but with an electric blue sky and bright sun; and when it snows, well – it really snows, covering the streets and parks in a blanket of pristine white, the Christmas lights in the department store windows seemingly twinkling even brighter. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade – on Thursday 26 November this year – heralds the start of the season.

We recommend that you stay in a property along the route where you can witness the spectacular street show in all its glory – **Mandarin Oriental, New York** is our choice. Premier Central Park View rooms and suites located

on the 43rd to 54th floors have floor to ceiling windows to really make the most of the views. Alternatively, the 35th floor Sky Lobby is a sight to behold, full length windows look out across the city and the park. And let us not forget the shopping. To shop in New York City is to find shopping nirvana. Yet, should this be too much of a Christmas cliché for your style-maven sensibilities, we feel we may have found the perfect alternative.

Why do battle with Christmas crowds when you could be picking up exotic handmade gifts in the medieval souks of balmy Marrakech. And where best to stay in this colourful and culture-ful North African city? **Royal Mansour Marrakech** is set in the heart of the medina,



Above: Bedouin-style tent on the terrace at Royal Mansour Marrakech.



Below: Central Park and the Hudson River view from Mandarin Oriental, New York.

Mile after mile of closet-sized emporia, each section selling its own speciality from spices to djellabas, babouches to engraved brass platters the size of manhole covers and even tiny stalls selling the ingredients necessary for casting magic spells.

tucked within the city walls, an opulent oasis of calm and serenity. At the request of King Mohammed VI, 53 riads have been painstakingly built according to local traditions. Handmade by 1,200 artisans using the best stones, marble, silks, satins, beads, feathers and cedar, the riads feature private courtyards, fountains and plunge pools and are exquisite examples of original Moroccan architecture. Service is discretion itself and privacy is paramount – an underground network of tunnels allows staff to move around the property without disturbing guests. Each riad benefits from the services of a dedicated butler.

Perfectly located for exploration of the ochre-hued

city, step out through the huge four ton bronze entry gate of Royal Mansour and into the medina. The souks fill the alleys north of the central square; mile after mile of closet-sized emporia, each section selling its own speciality from spices to djellabas, babouches to engraved brass platters the size of manhole covers and even tiny stalls selling the ingredients necessary for casting magic spells. Make sure you find the Criée Berbère – once a slave market, this knot of dimly lit roofed passageways is now the centre of the carpet trade – and the photogenic Souk des Teinturiers – the ‘dyers’ souk’ – the drying sheaves of coloured wool are dazzling.



Below: Colourful carpets at a Marrakech souk.



Snow / No winter season round-up would be complete without the archetypal mountain sojourn. So, if your preference is more alpine-adrenalin in nature, where the focus is the first tracks on pristine powder snow, then let us point you in the direction of Megève and the simply exquisite *Chalet Zannier*. This is a boutique mountain hideaway par excellence. Sitting above the cobbled streets of the quaint historical village, three alpine-style chalets are sophistication personified.

Twelve bedrooms have individually-designed interiors and most come with balconies or terraces and fireplaces to

curl up in front of after a day on the slopes. Or why not sample the superb spa and wellness area at the Chalet. A space dedicated entirely to calm and serenity, piste-weary limbs can recover in the hammam, sauna and indoor relaxation pool; or indulge in a signature treatment using renowned brands such as Aesop and Aromatherapy Associates.

This is a boutique mountain hideaway par excellence.

Conveniently, on-site ski hire is available from the ski chalet and from here guests can be chauffeured to and from the resort centre and the slopes. This means that it couldn't be easier to explore the vast ski area. Much of the 450 kilometres of terrain is forested with beautiful scenery and some magnificent views across to Mont Blanc.

Exertions on the slopes can be followed with relaxed evenings meandering along the streets of the beautifully preserved medieval centre or, for the quintessential winter wonderland experience, why not take a ride on a horse-drawn sleigh.

@carrierholidays We love the photos of the newly opened @AngamaSafari, Kenya. Now that's what you call a #roomwithaview pic.twitter.com/hH0x90T66o

52 UNVEILED
Voila! We present the stylish new openings and refurbishments from the luxury travel realm.

58 ULTIMATE INDULGENCE
A perfect pairing for those seeking the heady heights of opulence – experience The Residence by Etihad en-route to Velaa Private Island.

64 TIME FOR TEA
We need little persuasion to enjoy a cup of tea, in fact, it's an institution. We reconnoitre the background behind the beverage.



TOP TABLES
Reservations are a must. We explore some of the world's most unique dining destinations.

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Left: Pool Residence terrace at Velaa Private Island, Maldives; Sierra Mar at Post Ranch Inn, California.

Style

Pairing luxury and style comes naturally – we draw on the places, spaces and sojourns with a real flair for design distinction.





Above: Deck area at Angama Mara overlooking the vast plains of the Masai Mara, Kenya.

UNVEILED

Always at the forefront of luxury travel news, here we bring you exciting new openings and the latest news on refurbishments across the globe.

Eleven months in the making since the first peg was placed, **Angama Mara** sits on the edge of the Olololo escarpment in Kenya bordering the Mara Triangle, providing ringside seats to the Great Migration. Out of retirement and into Out of Africa came Steve Fitzgerald and his wife Nicky. Pioneers in African tourism with the opening of over 60 luxury safari lodges, the Fitzgeralds truly know

their stuff. We have their 15 year friendship with the Masai (who own the land where the property sits) to thank. Each of the 30 tented suites – across two camps – has an end to end glass front (an industry first); watch hot air balloons float by or go Streep and Redford with a picnic on the third kopje (see the movie's poster). And to top it all? A private road takes you into the Masai Mara reserve.

It was Nicky Fitzgerald who had a part in developing andBeyond into one of the world’s leading experiential travel brands and, further down the eastern coast of Africa, their latest exciting development is *andBeyond Benguerra Island*. It’s a new region for the company – and many others – as Mozambique bounced back after a 16 year civil war, along came a new wave of chic properties. andBeyond’s contribution is the extensive rebuild and refurbishment of a rundown fishing lodge. Taking over the management in November 2013, their elegant new lodge reflects both the island’s African and Portuguese heritage. With an exceptional location in the Bazaruto National Marine Park, changes include the widening of the cabanas, inclusion of four-poster ocean facing beds and a makeover to the Dhow Bar (a Benguerra icon) – the idyllic spot for delicious beach fare. The popular horse rides will remain.

With such awe-inspiring new hotels and experiences being opened up in response to the demand from travellers wanting to maximise their travel experiences (as reported in ABTA’s Travel Trends 2015 Report released in association with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office at the start of the year), the longer standing hotels, including classic Caribbean properties, certainly can’t rest on their laurels. One of the most established hotels in this area of the world, *Peter Island* (the largest private island in the British Virgin Islands and Sales Consultant Lucy’s favourite in the archipelago), began its life as a resort in the 1960s. They have the requisite white sand beaches for a paradisiacal stay and has recently undergone a ‘beautification’ to ensure it’s up with the times. The resort has certainly gone up a notch in sophisticated elegance. Guests stepping off the Peter Island ferry are welcomed into the cool shade of the new Arrivals Centre with a refreshing glass of signature ginger lemonade (½lb of fresh ginger, 17 lemons, 13oz white sugar – and perhaps a shot of spiced rum). The Captain’s Lounge is a new space where guests and visiting yacht skippers can meet to discuss all things nautical; whilst below is the new state of the art dive shop. The 32 Oceanview and Oceanview Deluxe Rooms have not been overlooked – they boast updated bathrooms and a refreshed new look. All the enhancements were

As Mozambique bounced back after a 16 year civil war, along came a new wave of chic properties.

completed in time for when Peter Island’s new General Manager, Scott Hart stepped ashore in July with plenty of fresh ideas to continue to build on this momentum.

On neighbouring island Antigua, the largest of the Leeward Islands, *Carlisle Bay*, described by television presenter Claudia Winkleman as “the greatest hotel on earth” (she travelled with us in 2014), unveiled their new adult-only Bay Suites last year, featuring four poster beds and butler service. Forever popular with style mavens, the spacious suites at this contemporary retreat will boast colours of crisp blues and greens. Make the most of the ravishing beach setting – all suites have a sitting area or bedroom that faces the sea and a private terrace or balcony, most affording fantastic ocean views.

The Sandpiper, Barbados, has also opted to refurbish its accommodation; the exciting new renovations will be unveiled when the property re-opens on 01 November this year. The beach house (purchased by the O’Haras five years ago) has proved popular but the family’s aim was to upgrade it to reflect Sandpiper’s true standards. There will be a new Tree Top Suite on the first floor (complementing the existing Tree Top Suites and furnished in the same way), complete with plunge pool and uninterrupted sea views – bliss. The ground floor has an exciting new category – two One Bedroom Oceanfront Suites. These have a large patio, a separate living room, a bedroom, dressing area and bathroom. They can all connect to offer a three bedroom villa, perfect for families or groups of friends, just feet away from the sea. A new 60 foot lap pool in the southern section of the hotel with a sculptural and soothing water feature close by will be sure to entice.



Clockwise from above
Deadman’s Beach,
Peter Island Resort;
guest room at
&Beyond Benguerra
Island; Bay Suite
bedroom at Carlisle
Bay; horse-riding on
the beach at &Beyond
Benguerra Island,
sunset sailing; pool at
The Sandpiper.





Above & right
Banyan Tree Phuket:
pool area, al fresco
dining in the garden
of a two bedroom
Pool Villa.



Clockwise from below
The Lime Spa at
Huvafe Fushi;
the entrance at
Malliouhana, An
Auberge Resort;
Junior Suite pool at
One&Only Palmilla.

*“Think Tintin when you arrive at **Malliouhana, An Auberge Resort** but just for ten seconds. It is the gleaming vintage diving helmets studded on the wall in the lobby which divert your gaze before you look out at the turquoise ocean. They had me thinking of Captain Haddock and some sea adventure. And sea adventure is the theme of this extraordinary hotel on a dramatic bluff which has had tens of millions of pounds spent to refresh it. Think cathedral-sized rooms with nothing so vulgar as a TV in sight. They are hidden in walled scalloped mirrors. This is somehow all very English country house with delicate feminine touches and not a scintilla of corporate formulae. It is clean and airy and contemporary but makes you feel that if Downton Abbey was relocated to the Caribbean a very modish and modern version of Carson would be very happy here. Nowhere else in the Caribbean would meet his standards. The Auberge group is famous for having started restaurants in California which were so good you want to stay the night. They have hit the bull’s eye with the Malliouhana.”*

Geordie Greig Editor of The Mail on Sunday



For well-established luxury travel brands, there is an ever-increasing pressure from their guests. If you stay in one of their hotels in one destination, you are more than likely (and quite rightly) going to expect the same from another. So they must keep ahead of the curve. PER AQUUM properties are especially renowned for blazing a trail when it comes to architecture, design and experience (and helping push the Maldives a long way in the 50 years since it gained independence). Not least in LIME Spa – **Huvafen Fushi** led the way with the world’s first underwater treatment space – where the signature rooms provide a uniquely surreal setting for treatments; even more so incredible at night. It is now ten years since Huvafen Fushi first hit the scene; but they are still raising the benchmark for indulgence and currently giving the retreat a full interior refurbishment. We have seen the initial artist’s impressions – get ready to be wowed – it’s more polished than ever.

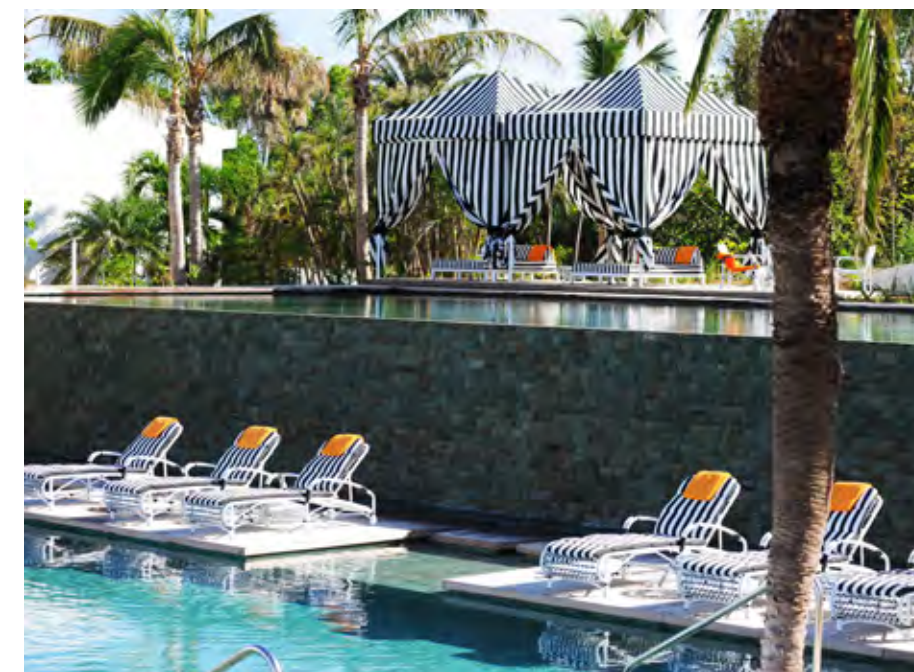
Banyan Tree also brings something to the table, following their 20th anniversary last year. This time, it is partial refurbishments and renovations at their flagship **Banyan Tree Phuket** property, within the integrated resort of Laguna Phuket. Beach buffs, spa lovers, sanctuary seekers and those looking for private living at its most opulent already had their every wish fulfilled in this no-luxury-overlooked enclave, and now even more can be sought. The resort already undoubtedly has the best range of pool villas in Thailand, but at the end of October, the 32 Deluxe Villas will all have pools (replacing the open air jet pools). The interior, main lobby and main swimming pool will have had a revamp and guests will be able to dine in newly renovated restaurants. Watercourt proffers all day dining and a selection of freshly caught seafood, whilst fine dining restaurant Saffron features delectable authentic Thai dishes. And we can’t forget the spa hidden away from the rest of the resort – it’s not being refurbished, but then it doesn’t need to be. Our recommendation: luxuriate with the Thai Herbal Heat Treatment.

It’s not always the hotel’s choice to revive; challenges include political unrest and natural disasters. **One&Only Palmilla** was one such casualty; closing in September last year due to Hurricane Odile which significantly affected all of Los Cabos on Mexico’s Baja California. The worst hit of the luxury hotels, but first to re-open (in April this year), this much-loved resort overlooking the Sea of Cortez introduced Seared, a handsome steakhouse restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Jean-

Georges Vongerichten and Suviche restaurant – redesigned as Agua by Larbi for farm-to-table al-fresco dining. Rooms and suites were refurbished; the devastated oceanfront restored (do not pass up a chance to learn from the surfing sensei at Tropicsurf). Plus, there’s a new spa and two salons. It’s come back better than before. Many of the hotels in the area took the same opportunity meaning that there couldn’t be a better time to escape to this stretch of paradise.

Whenever it’s a new property to the Carrier portfolio or a trusted veteran of the scene, Carrier strives to be the first in the know and the first to assay the changes – we were one of the first to get a journalist to see lavish **Malliouhana, An Auberge Resort** when it re-opened last November (exactly 30 years to the day it opened). Back in the 1980s it was the epitome of style, set on a cliff-top on unspoilt Anguilla. Failing to keep up with the times, due to the recession and increased competition, it closed in 2001. Saying goodbye to its outdated past and under the management of Auberge Resorts, there are now less rooms – 44, the spa has moved into the forest, the pool has become two-tiered; and the tone is a little more laid-back.

Below
Pool and loungers
at Malliouhana, An
Auberge Resort.



THE ULTIMATE INDULGENCE

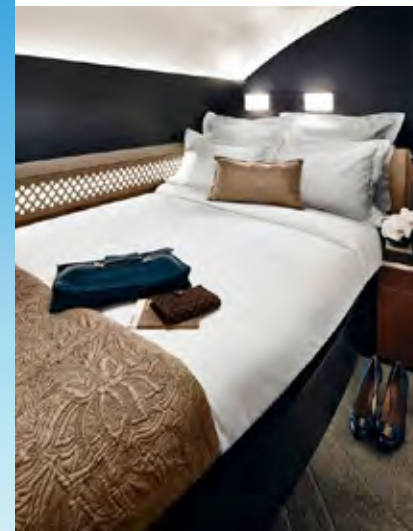
Meeting the demands and proclivities of ultra-high-net-worth individuals and tastemakers alike, this most decadent of islands in the Maldives and penthouse in the sky have been designed to attract only the most discerning of travellers.

Encircled by the aquamarine waters of the Indian Ocean in the charming Noonu Atoll, you will find **Velaa Private Island** – an exclusive hideaway which captures the essence of Maldivian culture and lifestyle. This pristine, boutique resort provides limitless opportunities and a cossetting approach where no request is too much.

Sprinkled across the remote archipelago are a mixture of one and two bedroom villas and five opulent four bedroom Residences where indulgent nuances set the impressive standard. Each of these dreamlike escapes has a dedicated butler and private pool with expansive glittering sea views. Guests of the Residences are granted exclusive use of the

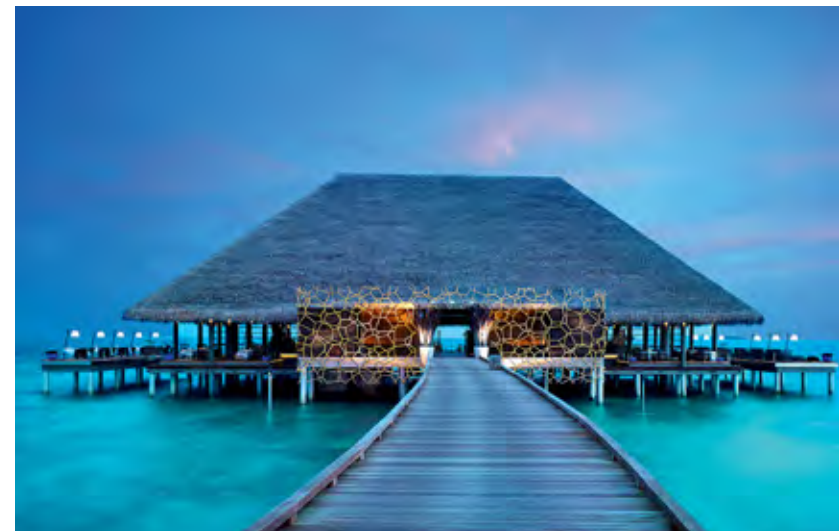
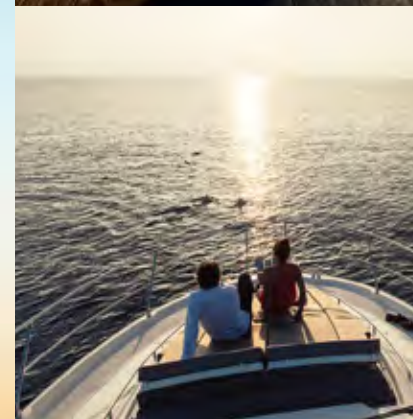
prestigious Velaa yacht – enjoy an idyllic glide along the azure waters whilst savouring the delicious tastes curated by the yacht's dedicated chef.

Back on land breathe in the beauty of Velaa and rejuvenate yourself in the innovative Clarins spa. Experience snow in the Maldives with the country's first snow room before warming up in the ocean-view sauna and napping in the snooze pod. Tee off at the bespoke nine-hole golf course designed by the renowned Spanish golfer and Ryder Cup-winning captain, Jose Maria Olazabal; before quaffing on an exceptional vintage in Tavaru – the quite extraordinary three storey wine tower, home to over 6,000 wines.



The Residence by Etihad

Etihad have unveiled a one-of-a-kind, 125 square foot three room suite on their fleet of A380s flying between London and Abu Dhabi. This exclusive on-board space has been branded the ultra-luxurious Residence. It offers a private sitting room, filled with opulent furnishings and a Savoy Hotel-trained butler on-hand to pour Champagne as and when you so desire. Allow your personal chef to prepare you a delicious meal to enjoy at your secluded dining table before retiring to a comfortable bedroom with ensuite bathroom. A double bed beckons; watch your pre-selected movies before a restful sleep, leaving you to wake feeling rejuvenated at the end of your flight.



The Residence by Etihad

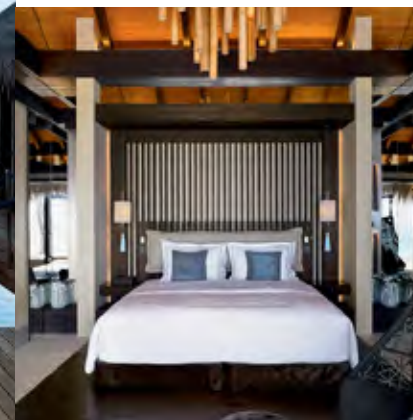
Top left & above:

Private bedroom on the world's first private multi-room cabin on a commercial flight; dining room with Poltrona Frau leather sofa and flat screen TV.

Velaa Private Island

Clockwise from top right:

Walkway to Aragu Restaurant & Cru Lounge; ivory-white Tavaru Tower accommodating the extensive wine cellar; Velaa Private Residence on a secluded beach; Ocean Pool House bedroom; Romantic Pool Residence terrace; main pool at Athiri Restaurant & Avi Bar; sunset dolphin cruise.



TOP TABLES

For times when reserving the best table in the house just isn't enough, you can rely on our collection of hotels to provide an unforgettable gastronomic journey. From an intimate meal for two set within a 300 year old former sugar mill in Nevis, to enjoying a fun-filled family meal with endangered Rothschild giraffes in Nairobi, we have rifled through our portfolio to find the most impressive, most exclusive and most exciting dining locations across the globe.

TREETOP TASTINGS

Beneath a canopy of tropical Banyan trees, a one-of-a-kind dining concept has hatched in the heart of a Maldivian jungle at **PERAQUUM Niyama**. As you twist and turn around the forest trunks and follow a trail of scattered wooden planks, you will find a set of spiralled steps leading up to an extraordinary tree house restaurant immersed in tropical foliage.

Private pods tower six metres above the ground and thatched domed pavilions are nestled amongst the trees, offering a secluded dining experience in the luscious greenery of the wilderness.

Local South-Asian nibbles are served before a culinary showstopper – sashimi encased in a globe of ice – is presented. Delve into delectable fare

prepared by Chef Jayadi Suwito; the mouth-watering menu has merged celebrated eastern favourites with lesser known must-try dishes. The delightful cuisine offers a festival of flavours with ingredients which have been freshly picked from the chef's own island garden.

To add a little drama to your meal, take a seat at the

teppanyaki stage. Prepare for an evening of theatrical dining as your personal chef stands behind the raw iron hotplate and dazzles with skilled manoeuvres whilst cooking your dish.

Round off your evening by tasting a selection of artisanal Asian spirits curated by the restaurant's in-house Sake master.



Safari silver service

Set around three natural spring pools inhabited by the resident hippos, are 17 tented suites each with spectacular vistas of both Mount Kilimanjaro and the Chyulu Hills. The beautifully styled, **Finch Hattons** draws its lavish inspiration from the legendary British aristocrat Denys Finch Hatton. The safari guide lived by the ideals of combining the thrills of Africa with complete elegance, style and home comforts.

Following the high standards of the property, dining occasions are an extravagant affair. Whilst Mozart plays in the background, multi-course gourmet meals are served on fine china and superb vintages are poured into cut crystal. Outside, the lodge's exceptionally talented team of chefs prepare an exquisite, out-of-the-ordinary silver service breakfast in the bush.

After manoeuvring through the expansive plains on an early morning game drive, the jeep comes to a stop in the middle of the rolling grasslands. The guide leads you on a walking safari and, as you meander through the savannah, you turn a corner to discover a breathtaking breakfast banquet in the middle of the reserve. A table is set with soft linen table covers, pristine silver cutlery and immaculate porcelain crockery, exclusively within the wilderness.

Once you return to the lodge after a day of exhilarating drives, retire to the stargazing terrace to appreciate panoramic views of the African sun setting over Mount Kilimanjaro. A log burner is lit and a selection of tasty snacks is laid out as you watch the wildlife around you begin to settle for the night.



PRIVATE, PERSONAL, PICTURE-PERFECT

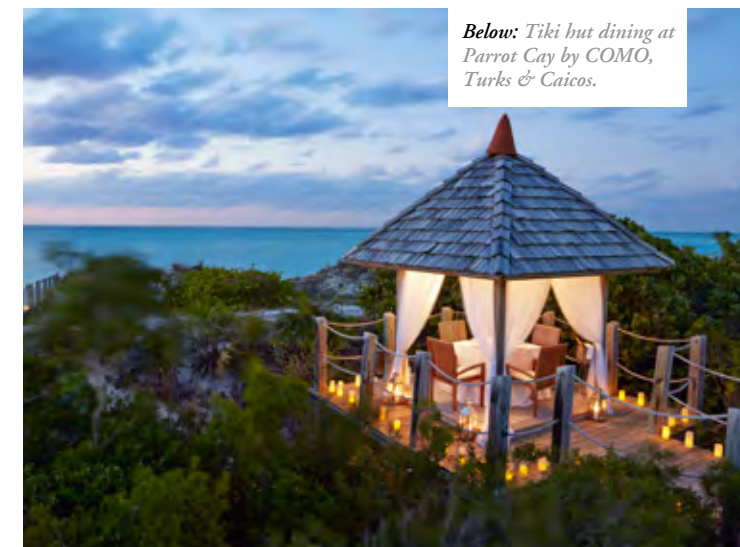
Private island exclusivity beckons at **Parrot Cay by COMO** – an escapist's paradise in Turks & Caicos. Fans of COMO will know that personalised service is to be expected on this private island, and, should you be lucky enough to stay in one of the Beach Villas, you will also enjoy the services of your own dedicated butler. Professional, skilled and some of the most experienced and enthusiastic members of the Parrot Cay team, the on-island butlers have served many of today's glitterati who are loyal guests to this exclusive resort.

Sitting basking in the warmth of the Caribbean sun with your toes in the finest of white sands,

taking in the impossible blue of the sea in front of you is really quite the experience in itself; however, combine this with the services of your own butler to cater to your every last whim... well, you may have died and gone to heaven!

We recommend that you really indulge and take this tailored service to the next level – choose the serenity of the near-secluded beach and allow your butler to set up a private dining experience. This really is the archetypal romantic setting; the sun sinking into the indigo sea, the glow of tiki torches and a table a deux.

Unique to COMO, the clean



Below: Tiki hut dining at Parrot Cay by COMO, Turks & Caicos.

eating, wellbeing COMO Shambhala menus offer delicious and healthy cuisine options alongside the regular offerings. Both menus feature an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables grown in the organic gardens.

Journey to the top of the island's highest point and you will find Pirate House. Once occupied by the island's first two female pirates, this renovated two bedroom house delivers the best views of the cay. Indulge in a mouth-watering feast on your veranda whilst treasuring sweeping island scenery.



Dine with giraffes

Enjoying breakfast with a giraffe will probably top your list of ‘greatest dining experiences’, and whilst you may not always remember what it was you ate, you will always remember the extraordinary company and unique setting.

Ever-growing foliage creeps up the walls of **Giraffe Manor**, the iconic country house-style mansion which lies within the Langata suburb of Nairobi. The manor is surrounded by a vast, indigenous forest; journey through the trees to find the giraffe sanctuary.

It was in the 1970s when Jock and Betty Leslie-Melville, the owners of the picturesque lodge, first adopted an orphaned Rothschild giraffe. They focused on rehabilitating and preserving this threatened species and created the shelter. Cared for

in the estate, they are reintroduced into the wilds of safer National Parks and game reserves when they are ready.

Each day as you draw your curtains, you will see a parade of magnificent, long-necked mammals on the lawn of the property. Downstairs in the breakfast room, as the head houseman serves your coffee the gregarious giraffes will reach their heads through the window to request their morning pellets.

Visit the nearby David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust – renowned for its wildlife rehabilitation. Home to orphaned elephants, make sure you arrive in time for the morning feed to watch the baby elephant’s dash towards the keepers for their bottles of milk.

THE GROTTO UNDER LIMESTONE CLIFFS

Discreetly nestled within the tropical gardens and coconut groves of Krabi Marine National Park, lies the exclusive **Rayavadee** resort. Accessible only by boat, it is the ultimate cast-away chic retreat. Enchanting pavilions and secluded villas are dotted across the island to replicate the idyllic atmosphere of a remote southern Thai village. Jagged limestone cliffs surround the peninsula and, hidden within the cavernous landscape, you will find one of Thailand’s best kept secrets – The Grotto restaurant.

A barefoot walk along the renowned Phranang Beach, leads you to the hideaway restaurant. A subtle candle-lit glow bounces

off the gnarled and weathered ceiling overhead to create an atmospherically romantic setting. Tables are scattered across the white powder sand carpet and each has an unparalleled view of the azure blue waters of the Andaman Sea, as the sun starts to fall towards the horizon and silhouettes the drifting fishing boats and outlying islands. Most people come for the tranquillity and peace – and this place has it in droves.

The kitchen is overseen by French-born Head Chef, Cyrille Keyser, whose inspiration for curating the menu stems from his well-travelled background



and enduring passion for Thai cuisine. Freshly prepared tuna tartar with wakame salad and whole branzino fish wrapped in banana leaf are firm favourites of the celebrated culinary team. On selected evenings each week, a livelier seafood barbeque is

also set up here. If you enjoy the laid-back setting of the barbeque, visit the restaurant sculpted from rock during the day for a leisurely lunch or take some time out of the sun to sip on a delightfully refreshing cocktail whilst gazing at the glistening waves.

A TASTE OF THE BIG SUR

Perched atop a Californian mountain ridge, where unspoilt, breathtaking vistas of natural redwood forests and dramatic shorelines of the Pacific Ocean are aplenty, sits Sierra Mar, the prestigious and award-winning restaurant belonging to **Post Ranch Inn**.

The leading chef, John Cox crafts an impressive nine course dinner menu which changes daily to reflect the freshest local harvest. The ‘Taste of Big Sur’ is described as an edible exploration for adventurous epicures. Inspired by the Big Sur experience, the dishes mix organically grown vegetables sourced from the chef’s garden on the Post Ranch property with an array of exotic and obscure ingredients.

Whet the palate with a Shigoku oyster topped with ice infused with a house-made redwood syrup, before embarking upon eight appetising courses. Grass-fed beef tenderloin is served over grilled escarole and creamy chèvre goat cheese is paired with radish blossoms. With an extensive wine cellar within the resort, allow the Wine Director, Dominique DaCruz to choose the perfect grape to accompany each enticing course.



SAVOUR HISTORY



Tucked away in the cool rainforest of Nevis, you will find a 300 year old mill which has been transformed into an exceptional fine dining restaurant, the only one of its kind in the world.

Mill Privée is positioned within the renovated 18th Century sugar plantation, **Montpelier Plantation and Beach**. Stroll through the shaded stone gates, past the works of contemporary art and carefully preserved artefacts until you reach the historic sugar mill. The restored hand-cut round stone walls envelope 11 intimate tables and an intense candle-lit glow

fills the restaurant, creating an idyllic, romantic setting.

Chef Stephane Caumont has travelled across the world and, using his accomplished culinary skills, has created an epicurean five course tasting menu which puts a modern spin on the typical Caribbean cuisine. Savour the signature seafood plates, seasoned with special spices; the kitchen delivers locally caught fish from the waters which lap the resort. Serving dinner only, this is the perfect way to unwind after an action-packed day. Disconnect and revel in dining in a distinctive, one-off venue.

Time for Tea

A meditator, a tradition, a national treasure, a legacy: a cup of tea goes far beyond simple enjoyment.

We have the Chinese to thank for the idea of drinking the soothing beverage. Legend has it that Emperor Shen Nong discovered the energising and refreshing effects of tea in 2737BC, when some leaves fell into his cup of hot water.

In the beginning, it was regarded as a therapeutic infusion brimming with antioxidants; although initially available to royalty and the rich, it quickly became a daily custom for those living prosperous lives. From the 10th Century onwards, China started to first export its tea to neighbouring countries, but it made its way to Britain much later.

Already becoming commonplace in Europe, Thomas Garraway was one of the first merchants to start serving tea at his London coffee house in 1657, but it became more established when Catherine of Braganza – the wife of King Charles II – brought over flavoured leaves from Portugal. This instantly started a ‘tea trend’ amongst the 17th Century British aristocracy.

From the ancient Chinese Dynasty to present-day Britain, tea has travelled through the centuries and across the globe; making its way into our lives and traditions. Here we take you on a journey to discover which destinations

High flyer

Making every person feel at home when they fly has always been a cornerstone of *Singapore Airlines’* ethos. Whether it is sourcing the softest leather from Europe’s oldest tannery in Scotland or serving Jasmine tea from China’s Fujian region, the airline scours the world to exceed expectations. These little details are what create the feeling of being cosseted amongst their passengers.

played a significant part in this history and where to head for intriguing tea rituals and experiences across the world.

When the birthplace of tea could no longer keep up with the growing demand, India took advantage of the situation and began the first real commercial production of the beverage. Recognised as pioneers, explorers and innovators, Britain’s East India Tea Company revolutionised the industry and facilitated the colonisation of much of this part of the world. The first English tea garden was established in Assam in 1837, with tea plantations soon rolled out across the country. Today, India produces and consumes more tea than any other nation in the world.

FAVOURITE FIND

Allow **Cameron Highlands Resort** to lay out a sumptuous al fresco picnic in the heart of the BOH tea plantations in Malaysia (pictured left). Enjoy an enriching tea tasting class before sampling an assortment of delectable bites with scenic views across the flourishing tea valley.

Moving south, originally a hub for coffee production before the crops were decimated by a fungal disease in the 1870’s, Ceylon quickly adapted to produce tea. The first leaf landed on Sri Lanka’s shores in 1824 and 23 years later, British planter James Taylor created the country’s first tea plantation. From an initial 19 acres in size, the plantation grew steadily until the industry began to soar, paving the way for the rise of the Ceylon blend.

Ceylon Tea Trails is perched on the hillside of this extraordinary tea region. Here, you will find four distinct bungalows, each decorated with quintessentially colonial furnishings. Traditional bed tea is served by a butler each morning whilst guests gaze at the breathtaking panoramas of Sri Lanka’s central highlands; recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage site.

The essential Tea Trails Experience comes highly recommended and is led by James Taylor, the great, great grandson of the founder of the famous Taylors Tea brand. Learn first-hand the age-old tea making process – from discovering the ‘two leaves and a bud’ rule of tea picking to exploring the factory where the fresh leaves are converted into black tea ready for sampling.

Fusion tea

Asia has adopted the quintessential British afternoon tea and given it an eastern twist with dim sum bites, scones and sashimi. Axis Bar and Lounge in the cosmopolitan hotel, **Mandarin Oriental, Singapore** is where we would recommend visiting for an indulgent five-course high tea. Located on the fourth floor, with sweeping views over Marina Bay, this venue exudes style and sophistication.



*Clockwise from left
Summerville Bungalow pool at
Ceylon Tea Trails, Sri Lanka;
Moroccan mint tea; a smiling
Tamil tea picker.*



*Clockwise from left
High tea at The Oyster Box,
Durban; view from the Presidential
Suite terrace at Four Seasons Resort
Marrakech, Morocco; a green tea
garden in China.*



Sample freshly baked
scones, gold leaf éclairs
and colourful macaroons.

The Caribbean, is also renowned for embracing English heritage and nowhere more so than Barbados. Known worldwide as the ‘England in the tropics’, its strong British legacy has meant that colonial traditions are still firmly interwoven into Bajan society.

Reflecting the island’s imperial background, guests of *Cobblers Cove* enjoy a complimentary daily afternoon tea served in the Pavilion at the Great House. Take in views of idyllic, azure waters whilst sipping on a selection of caffeinated and herbal teas. Make sure you also try the delightful delicacies that the talented culinary team have prepared to complete this authentic and memorable experience.

Journey across the Atlantic to discover the vibrant and mouth-watering wonders of afternoon tea at *The Oyster Box*, in Durban. This boutique South African

hotel is popular with tourists and locals alike. A grand table is dramatically centred amongst the opulent surroundings of the The Palm Court Restaurant and laden with an abundance of sumptuous treats. Sit beneath the glistening chandeliers purchased from the Savoy Hotel in London and sample the freshly baked scones, gold leaf éclairs and colourful macaroons whilst listening to the harmonious chords of the talented, in-house pianist.

North of the African continent, unearth the origins of naa-naa – the renowned Moroccan mint tea. During the 18th Century, a British merchant found himself in Morocco with an abundance of Chinese gunpowder green tea. Moroccans were enraptured by the sensational flavours emerging from the leaves, especially when mixed with mint. Sweetened naa-naa rapidly became Morocco’s national drink

and was quickly established as a sign of friendship and hospitality.

The Maghreb tea ceremony is a sacred ceremonious ritual which is central to Moroccan life; customarily prepared as a welcome drink to honour guests. In the heart of the Red City sits *Four Seasons Resort Marrakech*, a calming oasis showcasing the finest Moroccan architecture. Nestled within this contemporary haven is the Maarifa Cultural Centre, a space dedicated to art and the cultural traditions of Morocco. Watch as boiling water is skilfully poured from an intricate silver teapot over fresh spearmint, dried tea leaves, and sugar into ornate and fragile glasses from a height of around 12 inches. Learn this fine art before heading to Inara Lounge to be served your own Maghreb tea accompanied by authentic local sweet treats.

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