

# *escape*

BY AZURE

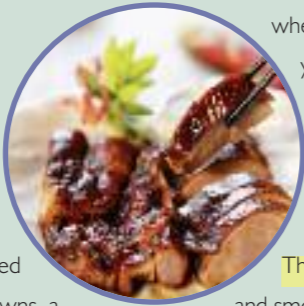
Winter 2019





It's very worthwhile taking a guided tour to places like the [Temple of Heaven](#) and out to [The Great Wall](#). Guides are knowledgeable and most speak fluent English and are able to take you on walks around the main sights which visitors wouldn't know about unless they were local. In late July, with temperatures close to 40 degrees, having a guide who knew where the shade was to be found was a lifesaver! A good guide will be full of interesting facts and histories and have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the best photo opportunities, and also always have a bottle of water on hand for you, essential in the summer heat!

Lunch at [Duck de Chine](#), a sophisticated modern Chinese restaurant, was a feast including the signature roast duck along with pickled black fungus (surprisingly refreshing), stir-fried green beans with a hint of chilli, and huge sweet and sour prawns, a fantastic meal which was great preparation for the hike along the wall. The Great Wall – or [Changcheng](#) as it's known in China – was built in many sections and unified under one emperor after he had a dream that China was in



danger, and at [Jinshanling](#) the wall is both challenging and rewarding in equal measure. Steep staircases with high risers followed by sweeping steps down the other side, all built in accordance with the hilly terrain beneath, mean you have to always keep focussed on where your feet are going but the views make it worthwhile, as well as the knowledge that in China you can't be a hero until you've been to Changcheng. You'll certainly feel like a hero when you sit down for the lovely gourmet picnic waiting just before you head back to Beijing.

Beijing feels like a very modern city which is determined to hold onto its history which means its a great city to go sight-seeing in, a great city for nightlife and a great city for shopping. [The Peninsula breakfast box](#), a selection of pastries, fruit, yogurt and smoked salmon and cream cheese bagel, will be waiting with the concierge no matter how early you check out, making the drive to the airport bittersweet as you enjoy tasty morsels while bidding goodbye to a surprising city.

## HOTEL PICKS...

THE PENINSULA is only a ten or fifteen minute walk from the [Forbidden City](#) and [Tianenmen Square](#), must-do sites for visitors to Beijing though beware the lines can be long for the former and please be sure to have your passport handy as it will often be used as your ticket for key attractions. If you visit the Forbidden City with kids try to be at the [Hall of Clocks and Watches](#) at 11am or 2pm as the clocks all chime in unison and provide a really memorable moment for the youngsters. [The Summer Palace](#) is a short taxi ride away and again will be busy but worth the visit. And even more designer shopping is a ten minute walk the other way from the hotel, with [Oriental Plaza](#) having great names in fashion and jewellery on one floor, and a modern Chinese mall experience on the one beneath.



THE OPPOSITE HOUSE is a chic and modern hotel in Beijing's sleekest and most modern area. Exiting the hotel and turning right you'll see a row of brightly-lit bars across the road, making [Sanlitun](#) a terrific location for enjoying the nightlife. One of Beijing's best roast duck restaurants, [Jingzun](#), is ten minutes away and is a neighbourhood restaurant which a lot of locals visit, in addition to heaps of foreigners. Turning left from the front door and following the path around the hotel, you'll find yourself in the middle of a sprawling shopping plaza with top designer names mingling with familiar high street brands, so not only will you not have to venture far to find the shops, but you won't have to carry your trophies too far home again either. Art galleries and theatres can also be found in the area which is very popular on weekends with locals and out-of-towners.



*Dear Traveller;*

Welcome to our Winter 2019 Newsletter!

We have new hotels, rebirths, and some firm long-time favourites within our pages, and we have experiences on land, in the air, on the water and under the ocean wave to tell you about.

If you're looking for beach fun in the sun, take a look at the Caribbean and the Maldives. St. Kitts and Antigua in the Caribbean with one of our favourite hotels having had a makeover in its signature suites, and a host of resorts in the Maldives including one with a world's first – but I won't ruin the surprise here. (Hint - you won't get wet, despite being underwater).

We also have a treat for cruise fans, as one of the world's finest cruise lines has rejuvenated its fleet and with sailings at all points you have a lot of opportunity to book a voyage and take a look fo yourself.



Europe is also well-represented with resorts in Tenerife, Portugal and Italy and the Middle East, a perennial favourite, also showcases some of its best hotels. There really is a fantastically wide choice of destinations in this season's news letter, and we've even had the opportunity to include a wonderful hotel in Australia's Blue Mountains, a nature-lover's paradise for you to enjoy.

So whether it's the beach, the city, the natural world, or the ocean blue that has you inspired, take a look and give us a call. We'll make it happen!

*J O'Gorman*

Jayne O'Gorman *Managing Director*

### FRONT COVER

Park Hyatt St. Kitts – see page 8 and back cover.

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# READ ALL ABOUT IT...

## AZURE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Our brand new, fully responsive website has landed. We invite you to journey our world of luxury at:  
[www.azurecollection.com](http://www.azurecollection.com)



STOP PRESS!



## EDEN ROCK, ST. BARTHS

Eden Rock St. Barths is reopening after extensive refurbishments and promises some little surprises!



## THE RITZ-CARLTON ABAMA

The Ritz-Carlton Abama in Tenerife introduces new interconnecting rooms which are ideal for families.



## OPERA IN SICILY

Andrea Bocelli announces new dates for August in Taormina, Sicily.



## SONEVA RESORTS MALDIVES

Soneva Maldives have taken receipt of their very own private seaplane.



## AZURE EUROPE 2019

Our 2019 European brochure welcomes new destinations to the Azure World. Call now for your copy on: **01244 322770**.



## ALILA CAMBODIA

Alila Koh Russey opens the door to another luxury resort in Cambodia.



## JOALI MALDIVES OPENING

A brand new, hugely anticipated luxury resort in the Maldives is welcoming guests. See page 20.



## BAGLIONI RESORT MALDIVES

Opens its doors in April, bringing Italian flair to the archipelago.



STOP PRESS!

SPECIAL OFFER - Zighy Bay

Stay 7 nights in a Pool Villa on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.

FROM £2,145 PER PERSON

Six Senses Zighy Bay's private marina has a stunning mountainous backdrop and adjoins a beautiful sandy beach, perfect for relaxing and enjoying the Gulf's uninterrupted sunshine. Oman is fast becoming one of the great go-to destinations for luxury breaks, and Six Senses Zighy Bay has been leading the way for quite some time. This hotel makes great use of land, sea and air with excursions to local villages, great diving and dhow cruises, and the option of arriving not by car or boat, but by tandem paraglider – a once-in-a-lifetime experience to start a terrific holiday.

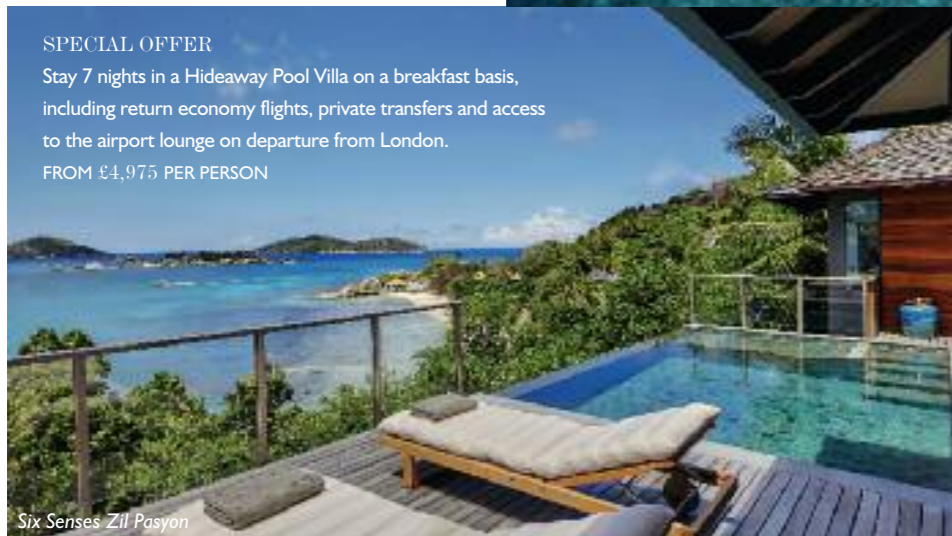
Island lovers will find **Six Senses Laamu** in the Maldives brings them everything and more, including over-water villas with private infinity pools from where you can watch dolphins frolic while you take in a cocktail in the shade of the gently waving palm trees. A beachside spa, world-class diving and snorkelling, and guaranteed sunshine make this destination heaven on earth.

Island living is also fully embraced at **Six Senses Zil Pasyon** in the Seychelles. Situated on a private island with dramatic coral and granite formations framing the beach, Zil Pasyon is an intimate resort featuring just 30 villas which in turn gives every guest a feeling of serenity, a feeling only reinforced by the soft lapping of the warm Indian Ocean at your feet.

## SPECIAL OFFER

Stay 7 nights in a Hideaway Pool Villa on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.

FROM £4,975 PER PERSON



### Six Senses Zil Pasyon

# Five Stars, Six Senses, Seven Destinations...

### Six Senses Ziggy Bay

*SIX SENSES is one of the best known resort brands, giving a true luxury experience in some of the world's finest and most coveted destinations with a stunning collection of hotels and spa retreats which make the most of their surroundings.*



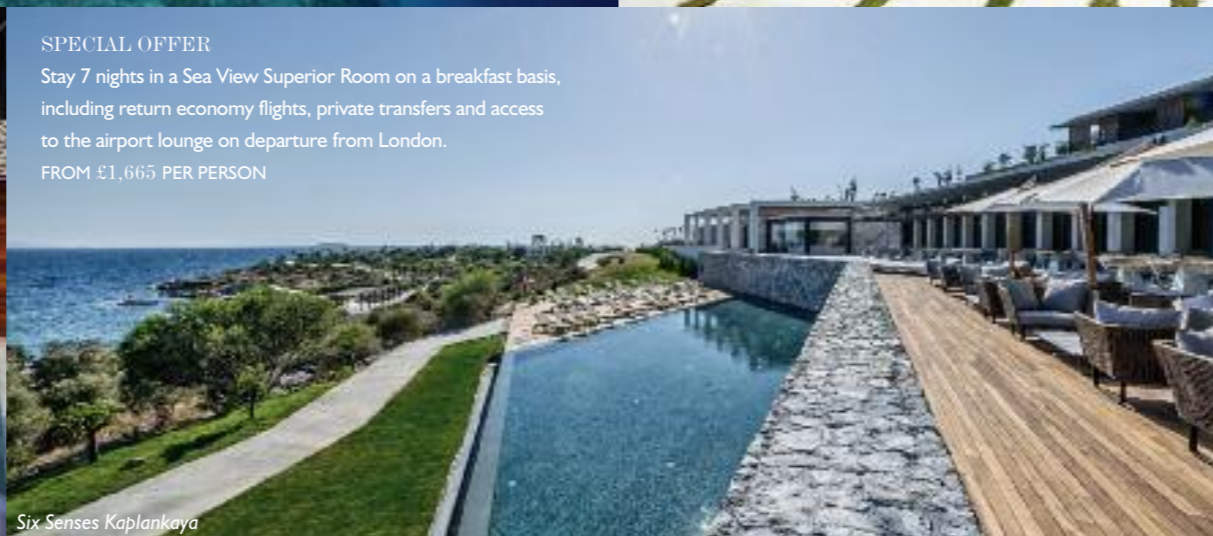
## Six Senses Lagu

## SPECIAL OFFER

Stay 7 nights in a Lagoon Water Villa on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.

**FROM €3,895 PER PERSON**

## SPECIAL OFFER



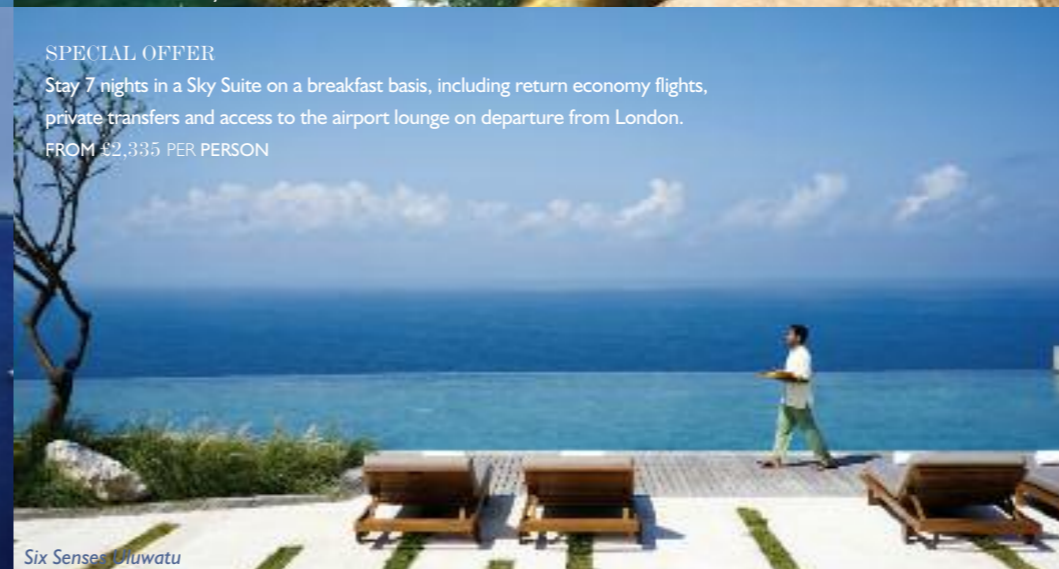
## Six Senses Kaplankava



### Six Senses Ninh Van Bay

## SPECIAL OFFER

Stay 7 nights in a Sky Suite on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,335 PER PERSON



## Six Senses Uluwatu

SPECIAL OFFER - Ninh Van Bay

Stay 7 nights in a Hill Top Pool Villa on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,275 PER PERSON

**Six Senses Ninh Van Bay** in Vietnam has the feeling of an island but is actually situated in a stunning mainland cove, with beautiful rock formations overlooking East Vietnam Bay. The sparkling white beach and the vast mountainous terrain inland serve to hold this delightful resort in the perfect grip of natural splendour and endless sunshine.

Six Senses Uluwatu is a jewel in Indonesia's luxury hotel crown, located at the southern tip of the storied island of Bali and close to the Pura Uluwatu temple, the local people's spiritual heart and home. This resort is home to a great wellness and dining offering as well as the outstanding surfing that the South Seas are known for – the perfect place to hang ten.

A little closer to home, straddling the Europe-Asia border, is Turkey and **Six Senses Kaplankaya**. This resort has everything you'd expect – a renowned spa, great dining, tremendous comfort – and is close to a myriad archaeological sites of great significance, including two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. (The Eighth Wonder is you wondering why you'd want to go anywhere else).

And Europe is also home to **Six Senses Douro Valley**, a spectacular refurbished 19th-Century manor house commanding breathtaking views of the Douro Valley from its hilltop location. A fantastic wine library and spa will pamper body and mind, while the hotel's restaurants offer great dishes from the local Portuguese culinary tradition as well as from further afield.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Quinta Superior Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.

FROM £2,715 PER PERSON



### Six Senses Douro Valley

Five Stars, Six Senses, Seven Destinations.  
The Choice is Yours.



Find Your BALANCE...



**PARK HYATT ST. KITTS**

Christophe Harbour is one of the most sought after addresses in the Caribbean and a visit to Park Hyatt St. Kitts will let you know exactly why.

This resort offers unparalleled luxury coupled with colonial charm and style, making for an irresistible combination in a perfect setting. Many of the suites here have private pools and clear views of the majestic Caribbean, giving you that “I just woke up in paradise” feeling every single morning. Three signature restaurants use the freshest local produce to bring you both Caribbean and international menus, and the seafood here is not to be missed. Great beaches – Banana Bay has the best beachfront on the island – and top class golf will get you out and about enjoying the scenery, while the kids can enjoy the specially designed *The Island Fort by Camp Hyatt*.

But an island holiday is all about coming home refreshed and rejuvenated, so why not enter the New Year as a New You by taking advantage of the wonderful *Miraval Life In Balance Spa*? This is a spa which not only pampers the body but also broadens the mind with activities like guided meditation and a unique sensory dining experience. Expert healers and trainers will lead you through yoga and fitness programmes while highly trained therapists will give you the best in spa experiences with a broad choice of body and facial treatments. When your relaxation is led by experts, you can't help but enjoy the feelings of worldly stress just flowing out of you.

Park Hyatt St. Kitts in Christophe Harbour is the very best of the Caribbean, and will leave you feeling like a new person in every way.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Park King Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London. FROM £2,115 PER PERSON



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Superior Hillside Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London. FROM £1,660 PER PERSON



See Yourself in a New Light.

**BLUE WATERS RESORT & SPA, Antigua**

On the Northwestern corner of Antigua in a sheltered cove on the island's Caribbean coast is where you'll find Blue Waters, one of the finest and best known resorts in the Caribbean sea, and a place where the atmosphere is sophisticated yet relaxed and most definitely welcoming. Blue Waters has long been known for its pristine beaches and lush gardens, and the *Cove Suites* perfectly showcase this island idyll especially now after their brand new makeover. The bright and airy suites are large and private, featuring a new white and turquoise colour palette. Oversized bathrooms and a large open-plan living space let you spread out and feel free. Opposite the bed will be a new feature wall with a built in 50-inch TV and minibar and If you take advantage of the all-inclusive offers the minibar can be stocked to order making your favourite tittle just a twist and a pour away. *The Spa at Blue Waters* is in partnership with top cosmetic brand Elemis, giving you the best in skin and body care. The specially curated menu of massages, skin therapies and facial treatments will help you rejuvenate and leave Antigua feeling and looking brand new. Luxury, perfect beaches, endless warm sun and and even warmer welcome – take a dip in Blue Waters.



**HERITAGE LINE CRUISES**

Cruising has a rich heritage and brings with it a somewhat romantic air of timeless luxury, a feeling that this is something special. And Heritage Line makes sure that that special something is very well preserved. With vessels designed just like they used to be, but with modern comforts of course, Heritage Line offer cruises not to go somewhere but to be somewhere. Lazily exploring the waters of the Mekong Delta and Vietnam's Lan Ha Bay, these ships are almost works of art in themselves and will make you feel you're sailing through the pages of Hercule Poirot mystery. Heritage cruise ships are intimate and full of character, with a real feel of the 1920s and 1930s about them – the Golden Age of cruising. Heritage cruises are ideal for 1-2 night stays in Halong Bay, and 3, 4 and 7 night stays on the Mekong River. With the new vessel *Ylang* joining the fleet with *Ginger* in 2019, you'll discover they really do make things like they used to.





**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Ocean Deluxe Room on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,080 PER PERSON



## SUN & SAND

### JUMEIRAH BEACH HOTEL, Dubai

Jumeirah opened its first hotel, the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, in 1997 and with its distinctive wave-shaped design it became an instant icon. After a summer break and complete refurbishment of the rooms, the hotel re-opens in late 2018 and is certain to be just as breathtaking as it was when it first flung its doors wide. Occupying the perfect spot on the Dubai seafront, Jumeirah Beach Hotel gives easy access to the warm waters of the Gulf via its own private beach but also has five swimming pools so diving in is easy to do. Thirteen restaurants, all having been refreshed during the hotel's makeover, serve up a host of tasty treats from all corners of the globe including South America, Asia, Europe and local specialities and make this a fantastic family destination as there really is something for everyone. Whether you choose a room, suite or villa you'll find a brand new interior welcoming you with very relaxed luxury with colours reminiscent of the beach outside and all the latest amenities, so you'll feel like you're at the beach before you've even unpacked. In addition to its 599 room and suites the hotel has 19 Arabian-styled villas with dedicated butler service and views of its next-door neighbour, the equally iconic Burj al-Arab. All the accommodations are spacious, luxurious and hugely inviting, and of course brand new. Jumeirah Beach Hotel is one of the world's most recognisable buildings, but the while the exterior is the same, the inside is rejuvenated and just waiting to be enjoyed. Come see for yourself.



### W MALDIVES

Sometimes during those cold months in the snowy season, the letter W is on your mind. But it doesn't need to stand for Winter. It can stand for W Maldives instead. On Fesdu Island with possibly the best house reef in the Maldives, this resort is a wonderland of creamy beaches and turquoise waters. Turtles and eagle rays make diving and snorkelling an exciting way to spend your days, while just relaxing in your private pool with a long, smooth cocktail can be more than inviting on those warm winter nights at W. When it's grey and dreary at home, how much more will you enjoy your jungle-meets-beach barbecue at Fire followed by champagne as the sun sets and then retreating for a moonlit dip before sinking into your plush king-size bed? No need for blankets on these winter nights.  
**W Maldives. Where the W isn't for Winter, it's for WOW!**



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Wonderful Beach Oasis on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £3,545 PER PERSON



## Be the Early Bird...

### VERDURA RESORT, a Rocco Forte hotel, Sicily

Sicily is perfectly located to get the best of the Mediterranean climate, and on the West coast of the island Verdura is perfectly located to give you the best and most authentic experience of Sicily.



Verdura boasts four restaurants overseen by celebrity chef Fulvio Pierangelini, making for menus which bring you the best of Mediterranean dining in a variety of settings both sophisticated and relaxed. The hotel also makes the most of the climate by offering a broad choice in outdoor activities, from Championship golf courses to tennis, swimming indoors and out, diving, non-motorised water-sports, and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. Of course, just chilling out on the resort's private beach comes highly recommended too.

The resort has 191 rooms and 29 suites all of which feature wifi and an in-room bar, as well as an interactive TV and all the comforts of home. There are also 6 uniquely designed villas, with features such as orange groves in the gardens and Sicilian maiolica tiling inside, and the resort always proves popular with first time and repeat visitors alike. So much so that it's worth considering the **early booking benefits available for 2019**, with discounts available for booking 60-, 90- or 120-days ahead, depending on the dates you're booking for. The other early booking benefit is, of course, ensuring you get your chosen accommodation in one of the Mediterranean's hottest properties.

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Deluxe Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £1,230 PER PERSON



Whether it's an intimate romantic getaway or a family holiday, perhaps even a special celebration or gathering of friends, Verdura Resort has everything you need and guaranteed sunshine to boot.

With this in mind, Oceania are proud to unveil **OceaniaNext**, a programme of sweeping changes and upgrades to its fleet and to the Oceania Cruises experience, and with it a re-inspiration of classic elegance. The classic vessels *Regatta*, *Insignia*, *Nautica* and *Sirena* will effectively be reborn as new vessels with every surface of every suite and stateroom being brand new, new menus and culinary experiences, and public spaces reflective of soft seas and warm skies. These changes will be apparent as you board your ship through it's welcoming Reception Hall, through to the exquisitely detailed chandeliers in the Grand Dining Room and even into the sleek, uncluttered and calming Canyon Ranch Spa. This rejuvenation of an already dazzling fleet is taking place over 66 days at a cost of \$100m using over a thousand craftsmen and artisans.



With chefs hand-chosen from some of the world's finest restaurants, Oceania dining has always been wonderful and now, with a newly-imagined menu to choose from, your gourmet voyage can be as varied and edifying as your oceanic journey. Awarded Finest Cuisine at Sea for a reason, Oceania Cruises insist on the best ingredients prepared by gifted experts and every bite will bring a smile to your face and make your tastebuds dance.



# TRULY INSPIRATIONAL.

With multiple awards including best onboard dining, best boutique cruise line and even best overall cruise line, *OCEANIA CRUISES* could be forgiven for resting on their laurels. However, they didn't get to be the best without growing, evolving and innovating and that's exactly how they intend to stay on top of the cruising tree.

Lighter, brighter and also more spacious, the accommodations on board utilise custom-crafted furnishings, exotic stone and polished wood finishes, and designer accessories to give a sense of elegance and sophistication which is totally in keeping with the Oceania Cruises experience and which creates a uniquely harmonious celebration of comfort and style.

Along with the expected entertainments at sea, including casinos of course, Oceania Cruises also offer a broad and ever-changing programme of lectures, seminars and evenings of shared interest like wine-tasting, cookery, trivia and more. With a gym and Canyon Ranch Spa to keep your body in fine fettle, the enrichment programme will help do the same for your mind, ensuring you disembark as rejuvenated as the ship you sail on.



With sailings to all points across the globe, including round-the-world cruises and grand voyages, Oceania Cruises is certain to be where you want to be, and gives a fantastic opportunity to explore ports far afield, with overnight stays or extended evenings in port, accessing smaller ports and villages that larger cruise liners simply cannot reach. Oceania Cruises are a way to really see the world in style, enjoying the finest luxury in the furthest places.

A TASTE OF THEIR VOYAGES...  
COSMOPOLITAN HAVENS  
*Rome to Monte Carlo - Marina - 4 November 2020*  
7 nights in a Deluxe Ocean View cabin on a full-board basis, soft and hot drinks, including return economy flights and transfers.  
FROM £1,840 PER PERSON



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Beach Pool Villa on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £4,850 PER PERSON



**ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES VILLAS**

Anantara Kihavah is an all-villa resort in the Maldives and the ultimate get-away-from-it-all retreat. The island, with its groves of coconut and mango trees, was discovered by sailors centuries ago and used a shelter in the midst of the vast Indian Ocean. As navigators they relied on the stars and, thanks to the island's location far from modern development, the skies are still crystal clear and perfect for astronomers to enjoy the heavens after dark, which is when SKY bar comes into its own with its circular daybeds, refreshing cocktails and stargazing telescope to bring the stars ever closer. Another perspective can be gained by having a wine-tasting in the underwater cellar, a unique experience in itself, and together with SKY bar will leave you in tune with those navigators of old. Fantastic restaurants, outstanding accommodations, wine under water – but at Anantara Kihavah the stars really are the star.



**ANANTARA RESORTS ABU DHABI**

For guaranteed sun and endless luxury, Abu Dhabi is a flawless choice. Though with two resorts and an **Azure-exclusive offer**, Anantara are saving you from having to choose where to stay. On the edge of the city, nestled among the natural wonders beyond, is where you'll find **Anantara Eastern Mangroves** – a resort which marries business and pleasure perfectly. A state-of-the-art conference centre is complemented by an equally outstanding spa, and the mangroves provide opportunities for kayaking and exploring not found elsewhere. And why not partner this resort with **Anantara Qasr al Sarab**, a desert oasis which gives you a real feeling of living like a sheikh? With the rolling dunes of the desert outside your window, this is the perfect luxury base for adventuring from, with regular dune safaris giving you a thrill ride that has to be experienced to be understood. Business or pleasure, or even business and pleasure, in Abu Dhabi is easy at Anantara and for those booking through Azure and combining both of these great hotels we can offer a **30% discount** on your trip.



**SPECIAL OFFER - 30% Discount**

*Book a trip combining both these Anantara resorts and receive a 30% discount. For more details please call the sales team on 01244 322770.*



**Ciao, Bella.**



**HOTEL DANIELI, Venice**

A trip to one of Europe's most storied cities wouldn't be right without a palatial destination hotel to rest in, and when the hotel has been formed by the amalgamation of three palaces, that's exactly what you find in Hotel Danieli, Venice.

Choosing your room may be the hard part, as every view of Venice brings to mind the great romantic history of Italy, and with a selection of signature suites celebrating great figures of the past as well as stars of stage and screen, it's hard not to feel like you're always in the midst of greatness. Guest rooms and suites are decorated in a classic fashion combining modern touches and amenities with timeless elegance.



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 4 nights in a Premium Deluxe Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £815 PER PERSON

As one would expect in Italy, food is at the forefront of your experience here but at *Terraza Danieli* the menu battles with the view to decide which you'll be more dazzled by. When the view is of a peach-coloured sunset over the Venice Lagoon, the island of San Giorgio and a tributary of the Grand Canal, the food needs to be special indeed to match up and the gastronomy here never disappoints.

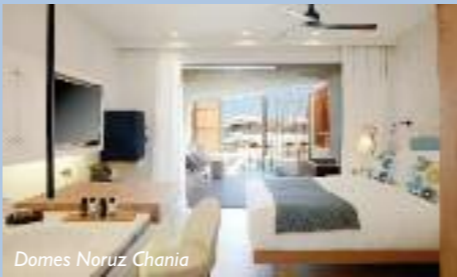
Venice is something of an open-air museum, with sights like the Bridge of Sighs, the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Basilica, the many gondoliers singing for their supper, and the famed Venetian glassmakers' workshops to name but a few. Ambling around Venice, absorbing it with all of your senses, and then returning to your palatial home from home – what could be finer?



Domes Elounda is perfectly situated to give easy access to the storied islet of Spinalonga and also to the historic town of Heraklion, close to which at Knossos is the former palace of the legendary King Minos after whom the Minoan civilisation was named. This palace has made Knossos the second most visited site in Greece after the Parthenon, and is only a short trip out of Domes Elounda's front gates. The resort itself provides for different sized groups with a range of suites and villas, and four very different restaurants serve global menus from local Cretan specialities to exotic Asian dishes.

Domes Elounda is a great family destination and provides an array of facilities for those travelling with kids including sports lessons, drawing, games consoles, babysitting or nanny services and more. The resort's private beach is an expanse of golden sand, safe and inviting for children to enjoy, and the water is shallow, clear and warm – perfect for paddling. Of course, couples are equally well-cared for with romantic packages and options like couples' massages, candlelit dinners, and access to adults-only sections of the resort to enjoy a quiet cocktail or serene supper.

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Premium Suite Garden View Room with Jacuzzi on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £1,145 PER PERSON



Domes Elounda has two sister hotels, the first being Domes Noruz Chania. The Egyptians, Ottomans and Venetians have all at one time invaded Chania, giving rise to a present-day city with a pleasing mix of historical influences built up over 4000 years. Every room at this adults-only resort features either a jacuzzi or a private or plunge pool, making it ideal for couples or groups of friends to use as their playground, while the resort as a whole features two larger swimming pools and a natural sandy beach to play on too. Domes Noruz Chania features a fantastic warm weather restaurant in its Raw Sushi and Cocktail Bar, making the most of the Mediterranean setting and bringing seafood to the fore.

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Upbeat Retreat Pool View Room with Plunge Pool on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £980 PER PERSON

Domes Miramare in Corfu is an adults-only destination, originally built by Gerasimos Patronikolas and a favourite of such luminaries as Aristotle and Jackie Onassis, Francois Mitterand and Andreas Papandreou. Today, the iconic building has been given a rebirth courtesy of Domes Resorts and designer Kristina Zanac, and guests can choose anything from a one-space room to a private villa with 63 sq m pool. Five restaurants and bars complement the in-room dining provision, and the spa and fitness centre offer indoor and outdoor activities and treatments as per your preference, allowing guests to really feel part of this unique location on the shores of the Ionian sea. A building like Miramare, steeped in history and celebrity patronage, a favourite of billionaires and world leaders, redesigned and rejuvenated for the 21st Century – Domes Miramare is the essence of the Mediterranean.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in an Emerald Retreat Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £1,040 PER PERSON

THREE SISTERS, ALL WITH THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES. WHICH WILL BE YOUR FAVOURITE?

With two resorts in the region – along with a luxury liveaboard and exclusive-use island – one five-star hotel name has the Maldives all sewn up.

Welcome to **Four Seasons Resorts Maldives**, where eternal summer weather and endless experiences lure guests regardless of the season back home. It's one thing diving the outer atolls aboard the Four Seasons Explorer catamaran that sails between the land-based Resorts, but guests of Four Seasons Resort Landaa Giraavaru can now dive among the fish without getting wet in the world's first DeepFlight Super Falcon 3S. This three-person submarine is piloted by an expert so you and your fellow passenger can spend an hour in its pressurised individual cockpits soaring over the reefs of the country's only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, alongside marine mammals, and through colourful shoals of fish.



Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru

The ocean wonders are equally impressive over at Kuda Huraa – the Maldives original surf island and still it's best – visited by the likes of Tom Curren, Layne Bleachley and Mark Richards at the annual Surfing Champions Trophy, although surf courses, classes and excursions extend the wave-riding appeal to all 12 months of the year.



Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru



Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa

The Resorts' suites are recognised as being among the very best in the country while spa treatments ensure a never-ending glow from spring through to winter – from 'Healing Waters' treatments at *The Island Spa* to bespoke Yoga Therapy Courses and AntiGravity Yoga at Landaa Giraavaru. Surely a year-round holiday where you can even escape gravity has to be something special!



Four Seasons Explorer



Deepflight Adventures  
Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru

*Four Seasons above the sea, and DeepFlight to take you below whether it's spring, summer, autumn or winter.*

**SPECIAL OFFER - Landaa Giraavaru**  
Stay 7 nights in a Oceanfront Bungalow with Pool on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £5,090 PER PERSON

**SPECIAL OFFER - Kuda Huraa**  
Stay 7 nights in a Beach Pavilion with Pool on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £3,660 PER PERSON



Soneva Fushi



**Soneva Fushi** has villas from 1-bedroom up to a capacious 9-bedrooms, so no matter how large your group staying together and playing together is easy, especially with the Indian Ocean a hop and a skip away from wherever you're standing. The resort has a range of evening dining options but rising from the water is the new Out of the Blue experience, a two-storey over-water all-day dining delight. Featuring four concept Asian restaurants including a sushi and teppanyaki table run by a three-Michelin Star chef, this is a not-to-be-missed celebration of flavours, textures and culinary treats.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Crusoe Villa on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £5,995 PER PERSON



At **Soneva Jani**, the Indian Ocean gives up her bounty to the expert chefs at the new *Crab Shack* restaurant, allowing guests to take in the wonderful Maldivian sunsets while dining on the freshest local fish and seafood. The Crab Shack is new for 2019 and will be a fine addition to the already wonderful choices here, which include a Peruvian restaurant – *Director's Cut by Gaston* – offering zesty South American temptations and perhaps the star of the show, *So Starstruck*. Four intimate dining tables surround the largest telescope in the Maldives, so stellar food and the night sky as your entertainment make for great bedfellows.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a 1-Bedroom Water Retreat on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £6,835 PER PERSON



On Koh Kood in Thailand, **Soneva Kiri** melds seamlessly into the jungle backdrop leaving the island looking as wild as it did a thousand years ago. A new kitchen on the north beach for 2019 adds to the already extensive dining treats available, including an uplifting experience in a dining room perched on stilts at *Benz's* gourmet Thai restaurant which replaces the menu with a nine-course chef's selection which changes nightly. Fresh seafood, over 60 flavours of ice-creams and sorbets and a multi-layered choice of freshly made chocolates will keep your taste-buds tingling.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Bayview Pool Villa Suite on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,995 PER PERSON

**Soneva – so fresh, so chilled and so very tasty!**



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Beach Villa with Pool on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £6,510 PER PERSON



# New Heights of LUXURY.

**JOALI MALDIVES**

In Raa Atoll in the Northern Maldives is where you'll find Joali, a luxury resort built not only with the discerning traveller in mind but also intent on preserving and working with the fragile ecosystem of the islands. The beach villas here open out onto the pristine sands and are surrounded by tropical gardens, making a dip in your private infinity pool an immersive natural experience, while for those who are all about the ocean the water villas offer the same facilities but with the Indian Ocean as your downstairs neighbour. Four restaurants, a beachfront bar and an artisan ice-cream and chocolate store take care of the refreshments and this being the Maldives you can expect outstanding diving and snorkelling as well as excursions on water and land. The Joali ceremony is an important part of Maldivian life and Joali has been built around and among the island's tree population to ensure that lifestyle continues. *Joali is the Maldives.*



**PANGKOR LAUT RESORT, Malaysia**

Malaysia is a rapidly developing country, complete with modern cities with staggeringly tall skyscrapers, but that doesn't mean the wild rainforests have been completely tamed as you'll find at Pangkor Laut Resort. This 300-acre island is largely untouched, save for the resort itself, giving you ample opportunity to explore Malaysian nature at its best. Macaques, hornbills, sea eagles and monitor lizards are among your neighbours here, and nature is revered so you'll be able to see these exotic creatures enjoying life to the full. The natural world also forms part of the Spa Village experience here, with Malay, Chinese and Indian traditions called upon to provide a treatment menu which uses local resources and ingredients to great effect. With a choice of over-water, garden, or hillside accommodation you can choose exactly how you'd like to enjoy this marvellous destination, and you'll find that the finest ingredients don't just go on your body in the Spa but also into it in the resort's six restaurants and bars.  
*A one-of-a-kind resort, Pangkor Laut has to be lived to be believed.*



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Complimentary Upgrade to a Hill Villa on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £1,555 PER PERSON



# MAKING MEMORIES...

**GILI LANKANFUSHI, Maldives**

When we're booking a luxury holiday in the sun, we never stop to ask ourselves "What is luxury?". Possibly the best answer for this is that luxury is the freedom to make your own choices, and that's exactly what you get at Gili Lankanfushi.

At this Maldivian retreat, your luxury is how you define it, and your own Mr/Mrs Friday is on hand 24/7 to make it happen for you, whether it's a good book, a fine wine, a whale-watching trip, a cookery lesson or just peace, quiet and sunshine. With it's own private yacht available for excursions to far-flung atolls, your own private luxury can be as expansive as you like, and you'll always have the main island to return to, and a different wining and dining experience every night, as well as wine tasting and the opportunity to dine in the island's unique underground wine cellar. Gili Lankanfushi has sustainability high on its agenda and grows its own fruits and garden greens on the island, so a leisurely stroll around the gardens should build your appetite.

The Maldives are a highly desired spot for honeymoons and romantic getaways but this region is also a fantastic family destination. There's always something to do for the kids, and the accommodations include large family villas with direct ocean access for swimming and snorkelling. •Booking a minimum 5 night family stay can earn a **20% discount** and **kids stay and eat for free**, so not only is it a great family destination but also a great time to book.



## ISN'T IT TIME YOU DEFINED YOUR OWN LUXURY WITH GILI LANKANFUSHI?



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Villa Suite on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £3,975 PER PERSON



Wolgan Valley

Occupying just 1% of its own 7,000 acre conservancy, **One&Only Wolgan Valley**, New South Wales is a resort which makes the most of the stunning natural landscapes available in this exciting country. See it all with a helicopter and driving experience that will give you unparalleled views



of the city of Sydney, high above the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge, before heading up along the Parramatta River to the Blue Mountains and a meeting with your guide for a four-wheel drive tour, taking in natural wonders along the way, perhaps stopping for a picnic in a natural cave formation or in a rainforest with no-one else for miles. The resort has an almost village-like feel, with a real feeling of relaxation and oneness with nature, so even once you settle in you'll still feel tranquility abounding. The hotel's restaurants also feel at one with the surroundings, celebrating Australian produce and ingredients in fine keeping with the region's reputation as a foodie hotspot. The Wolgan Valley sits between two national parks, so nature-lovers will find no shortage of things to do with guided nature walks, great photo opportunities, luxury picnics and the chance to get involved in the resort's conservation activities all available, as is a great spa and fitness centre.

# PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES...

*Sometimes a holiday is all about the destination, and other times its about the journey. Then again, what if the perfect holiday is about the planes, trains and automobiles waiting for you at journey's end?*

**One&Only Resorts** are always in a great destination and always understand that getting there can be half the fun.



Cape Town

**One&Only Cape Town** brings together the best of the city and country with an enviable location in the heart of the V&A Waterfront, using the freshest of local ingredients in its kitchen and some of the world's finest grapes in its wine cellar. Surfing lessons, ocean wildlife tours, a world class spa and fantastic wine and dine experiences are available; the resort is only too happy to arrange for you, other motorised excursions such as a Big 5 Vineyard wine safari by Land Rover and sample

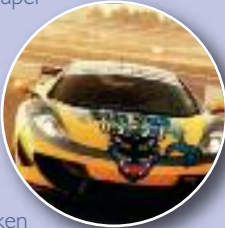


the big 5 of the grape kingdom, or maybe you'd enjoy a ride up the iconic mountain in a motorcycle sidecar? Why not grasp the chance to take one of the world's most scenic railway journeys with **Rovos Rail**. The two-day trip from Cape Town to Pretoria takes in lakes festooned with flamingos, remote towns, the diamond mines of Kimberley and some utterly captivating sights in between. The journey can be extended to historic Victoria Falls, where Stanley met Livingstone, and it's fair to presume this is one of Africa's finest natural wonders. The 1600km journey really lets you see the bosom of South Africa and will live in your memory long after the locomotive has hit the buffers.



Dubai

If four wheels are more your thing than two, then a visit to Dubai Autodrome during a stay at **One&Only Royal Mirage**, Dubai might be just the ticket. Hailed as Dubai's most stylish beach resort, this hotel is opulent as any you'd find here and is the perfect place for an exciting break, given the proximity to Aquaventure waterpark, the ever-evolving skyline and of course the Autodrome where you can take your pick of super-cars to throw around the track or go along as a passenger with an expert at the wheel. Ferrari GT, McLaren, Audi R8, Porsche GT4 and Formula DXB racing cars are all warmed up and ready to be taken for a spin. In a city where exotic supercars are on every street, why not get behind the wheel of one yourself and have a blast? And later, reflect upon your experiences as the adrenaline keeps you awake in your luxurious Arabic-styled room in this palatial resort, dining from a choice of wonderful menus while you plan how to spend tomorrow.





What could be more peaceful and secluded than a private island resort in a tiny island nation in the middle of the Indian Ocean? This is **Niyama Private Islands Maldives**. Snorkel over the reef, swim with hammerheads, zip over the waves on a jetski – how you spend your time here is entirely up to you at Niyama, a fantastic family destination with almost permanent sunshine and an outstanding children's facility in *Explorers Kids' Club*. Kids join a tribe according to age, and then engage in a wide range of organised activities such as scouting for dolphins, taking Master Chef classes, putting on a show or just playing with their new friends, leaving you free to to enjoy the *Drift Spa* or indulge in one of the many cultural dining experiences – including underwater in *Subsix* – safe in the knowledge your little ones are having the time of their lives. With twin islands, the Isle of Play and the Isle of Chill, you can choose the surroundings to suit your mood and let Niyama do the rest.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Beach Bungalow on a full-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £3,515 PER PERSON

One of the reason the Maldives are so alluring, along with the exclusivity, is the opportunity for seclusion – the chance to get away from it all in your own private escape. **KANUHURA** is the perfect destination for this, consisting as it does of three private islands of which two are tranquil, stunningly beautiful and entirely deserted.

The hotel sits on the main island with the other two available for guests to picnic and play on as they choose, giving all the benefit of a luxury hotel together with the pleasures of getting in touch with your inner Robinson Crusoe. Five restaurants, two bars and a deli are dotted around the hotel so you never need to feel truly cast away, and the hotel has put together some fantastic offers to help you get the most of your trip. The social media-savvy will enjoy the photoshoot that forms part of the *Instagramable Escape* offer Other offers are also available, designed to help you make the most of your time and craft perfect holiday memories including mixology lessons, island escapes and more.

Those who already have children will be reassured to know the *Kanuhura Kids' Club* is located close to the centre of the resort and offers a range of activities for youngsters including arts and crafts, cookery, sports and more. The floating water park is available for everyone to enjoy, including the big kid in all of us – and the Kids' Club itself has a splash pool for the little ones to splash in the water safely with new friends. Special programmes have been developed for holiday periods and the *K Club's* activities also include Maldivian games and pastimes to give your children new and delightful experiences.

WITH THREE ISLANDS AND SOPHISTICATED LUXURY IN THE HEART OF AN UNFETTERED NATURAL IDYLL, KANUHURA MIGHT JUST BE THE PERFECT INDIAN OCEAN GETAWAY.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Beach Villa with Pool on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £3,635 PER PERSON



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Deluxe Silver Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £745 PER PERSON



A few miles off the North African coast is where you'll find Tenerife in the Canary Islands, enjoying the best of the weather within easy reach of home. And whether you want a relaxing retreat or a rocking good time is entirely up to you.

**HARD ROCK HOTEL TENERIFE**  
Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife on Playa Paraiso has three fresh water pools (heated all year round) to complement its saltwater lagoon, so you won't have to head too far from your room for a swim. With the Hard Rock signature ever-present in facilities like the *Body Rock* gym and the *Rock Spa*, you'll have plenty of opportunity to tune in and rock out wherever you are, whether in your spacious contemporary room or one of the ten restaurants and bars. And of course Hard Rock wouldn't be Hard Rock without some live music and the family-orientated resort has an ever-expanding events calendar to provide guests with entertainment all-year round, especially during those long winter nights when the sun sets early and playtime can start sooner.



**BAHIA DEL DUQUE, Tenerife**  
If a more tranquil Tenerife is on your mind, Bahia Del Duque has direct access to Playa del Duque and has a wide selection of bars, restaurants and lounges to relax in when you fancy a seat in the shade. The hotel offers a range of suites and its signature villas as well as an outstanding wellness retreat that includes physiotherapy as well as pampering options so improving your health and wellbeing is an intrinsic part of Bahia life. Activities like star-gazing and yacht trips can be arranged and the clear skies here make for great holiday weather. The resort's location is ideal for winter sun holidays, being close to the beach and in a part of the world which is warm, welcoming, and wonderful.

Bahia del Duque and Hard Rock Hotel Tenerife – exactly what your winter is waiting for.



**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Stay 7 nights in a Garden Room on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £1,445 PER PERSON





## Oman

by Jo Abbott, Specialist Sales Consultant

Flying via **Oman Air**, it's fair to say that what Economy Class might lack in terms of comfort and service is more than made up for in Business Class, and the VIP M&G service on arrival was a lovely touch, getting us through immigration with ease, refreshed and revitalised.

Our stay was a whistle-stop tour taking in several hotels, the first of which was the **Shangri-La Al Husn Resort & Spa**, a lovely hotel with spacious and well equipped rooms which are easy to enjoy while taking in views of the private beach. The sister hotels are *Al Bandar*, which can take an extra bed in a king room for those travelling as a family, and *Al Waha* which has very spacious rooms ideal for larger groups. Half board is a great option at the latter two hotels.

We moved on to **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort**, an impressive structure with good-sized rooms, great views and lots to do for the more adventurous traveller. The pool was perhaps not as large as I'd imagined but this wasn't a big problem as there is so much to see in and around Muscat that it was hardly noticed. Also at Jabal Akhdar is **Alila Jabal Akhdar**, a truly stunning brickwork building that merges into the mountain backdrop and creates a real sense of majesty and grandeur.



Getting out into the Omani desert is a must and overnighting at the **Magic Camp at Wahiba Sands** is a great experience, taking in a stop at Nizwa City on the drive to explore the fort and souk. The Camp is in 8000 square kilometres of desert dotted with the occasional Bedouin encampment, and the tents are comfortable with a certain romantic allure. Sunset and sunrise over golden sands have to be seen to be believed.

## W Maldives

by Jessica Jones

Specialist Sales Consultant

Just a 20-minute seaplane transfer from Male is **W Maldives**, with a very cool pool area with an equally cool poolside DJ. The accommodations here are spacious and tech-savvy and have lovely outdoor space, ideal for in-villa dining, although with one of the Maldives' best seafood restaurants and the deliciously varied international buffet at Fire, eating out might be more fun.



The water is obviously a big part of the resort, with a great range of watersports, motorised and otherwise, as well as glass-bottomed kayaks for a spot of reef-watching, and the overwater spa makes the most of the destination, using both indoor and outdoor space very invitingly indeed.

While the private island available for your castaway moments, and its a sheer delight, what will keep you coming back is the attention to detail offered by the staff. They are very friendly and really make the effort to get to know guests and what they want and need. W Maldives is great resort for all ages and while the family offering is great already, it'll be even better when 2019's Kids' Club opens.



## NEW ZEALAND – Lodge Life

by Lizzy Watts, Specialist Sales Consultant



New Zealand is undeniably extraordinary and must be explored; from icy glaciers, cavernous fjords, glistening lakes, seemingly endless vineyards and enchanting sea life in the South Island to cool cities, beautiful beaches, bubbling mud pools and world class golf courses with breath-taking sea views in the North Island – every corner of New Zealand has something to offer and of course, the Kiwi hospitality and humour and rich Maori heritage alone are worth the journey to the other side of world!

Scattered throughout both the North and South Islands, I would recommend adding as many lodges as possible to a New Zealand itinerary – they are more than just somewhere to stay; they all offer incredible scenery, exceptional and often unique, activities and exquisite service – along with sumptuous furnishings and facilities in which to delight in for a night or several. And if the budget allows, it is entirely possible to explore New Zealand and stay entirely in luxury lodges and estates – hopping between them by helicopter for added glamour.



The Farm at Cape Kidnappers

Boasting six thousand acres of outstanding pastureland in Hawke's Bay with a craggy and imposing coastline, the driveway to the lodge is a 15-minute drive alone! With stunning Pacific Ocean views from both the lodge and the par 72 links style golf course; here you can go in search of a wild Kiwi bird on a conservation discovery walk, explore the rugged terrain in a specially designed off-road vehicle, try your hand at shepherding, go horse riding, mountain biking, heli-hiking and gorge walking amongst others. And afterwards, enjoy a gourmet a la carte dinner and retire to your graciously appointed cottage with unobstructed views across the farmland to the ocean beyond.

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Minaret Station

This is an incredibly special lodge. Expectations were high – the lodge is only accessible by helicopter as Minaret Station is situated in the heart of the Southern Alps in a scenic glacial valley at an elevation of 915 metres. The journey in (and out!) by helicopter is beyond spectacular – some of the most incredible scenery you will find anywhere in the world, and can be combined with a jaunt through Fjordland, the dramatic west coast for a spot of Lobster 'fishing' and/or a glacier landing! And once at Minaret Station the enjoyment doesn't stop there; each of the four 'rooms' are individually built chalets with sheepskin carpets and a private deck with hot tub and uninterrupted views across the valley floor. Activities abound such as hiking on one of the many surround trails, trying your hand at high country farming, heli-mountain biking, heli-skiing and fly fishing.



Annandale

If you're looking for jaw-dropping and award-winning accommodation with 10km of coastline, then look no further than the lodging offered at this iconic farm. The delightful 5-bedroom renovated *Homestead* is at the heart of the farm and is perfect for families and groups with its delightful kitchen and social areas and beautiful surrounding gardens. At Annandale they say 'stay where the world can't find you' and this couldn't be truer than in Seascape – an architectural wonder with a wall of floor to ceiling windows overlooking the private bay, the views of which can also be enjoyed from the outdoor lounge with fireplace and outdoor spa; Seascape provides a perfectly secluded romantic experience for two. Now, imagine the ultimate beach house in complete isolation with its own private bay, swimming pool, deck with open fire and chef's kitchen – look no further than Scrubby Bay which can provide accommodation for up to 14 people in 4 double rooms and a bunk room and is the ultimate location for a once in a lifetime celebration. Both Seascape and Scrubby Bay can be accessed by a picturesque 40-minute drive or by helicopter and there are activities abound such as kayaking, nature cruises, cooking classes, horse riding, hiking and mountain biking. As you've read, New Zealand is the perfect destination for the discerning traveller; with a wealth of opportunities to explore, experience and stay in unparalleled luxury.



Annandale



## Evian Resort, Lake Geneva

by Charlotte Cox, Product & Marketing Assistant

Arriving in the midst of a thunder storm certainly didn't put a dampener on my trip to the Evian Resort. Set in nearly 50 acres of greenery **Hotel Royal** and **Hotel Ermitage** have something for everyone, young and old. My stay was in the Hotel Royal in a Lake View Room which was spacious, bright and has the most beautiful view over Lake Geneva that I could not get enough of.



I was spoilt for choice with the restaurants and bars available between the hotels however, *Les Fresques* is not to be missed. The Michelin-starred restaurant set my taste buds alight. Make sure you take a look at the front of the menu...the mirror gives you some of the best view of the frescos on the ceiling above you! If you're after a trip full of adventure and exploring then Evian Resort is the one for you. The hotels boast their own Sport & Culture Department where no activity is unthinkable no matter your ability. Alternatively, with each hotel having its own Spa plus the Thermal Spa located 5 minutes outside the resort all using the naturally sourced Evian mineral water you really can do as much or as little as you'd like.

Stepping out onto the driving range at the Evian Resort Golf Club Academy certainly made me feel like a champion. Despite having never picked up a golf club before, with an hours coaching from a professional I actually managed a decent enough swing to get my ball over the bunker. Although I still have a little way to go until I win The Evian Championship. Children aren't forgotten about either as they have their own 1000sqm kids club located in between both hotels. With a huge array of activities on offer, I was left longing to be a child again.

Overall I think Evian Resort offers a little piece of heaven for everyone and I would not hesitate to return.



Hotel Royal

## Castello del Nero

by Nina Lloyd

Specialist Sales Consultant



Just 90 minutes from Pisa Airport is **Castello del Nero Hotel & Spa**, ancestral home of the del Nero family and boasting over 900 years of architectural heritage. This 12th Century edifice occupies 700 hectares in the Chianti vineyard region of Tuscany, and is just a short stroll from a charming village with local shops and restaurants as well as a weekly market, perfect for souvenir-hunting.

Three outdoor exercise tracks, tennis courts, fitness centre, a very good spa and an outdoor heated pool (available through the summer months) will help you work off some of the delicious treats available in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, and the free shuttles to nearby Florence and Siena make exploration easy. The hotel also has its own vineyards and herb garden, and where there is a vineyard there's also a well-stocked wine cellar.

The rooms are spacious and airy, and the levels of service here are fantastic. The hotel is in a great location for culinary delights like cooking classes, autumnal truffle hunts, and in a location with bee-hives, olive groves and vines the cheese, wine, olive and honey tasting was always going to be divine.



Castello del Nero is the best of both worlds with rolling this can hills as your backdrop and city life just a short shuttle away.

## Resort at Paws UP

by Alex Higgins, Specialist Sales Consultant



After a couple of nights in Utah, it was time to head to Montana and the Resort at Paws Up, which was definitely the highlight of the trip. It's a short flight from Salt Lake City to Missoula but the change in scenery is noticeable, from the desert of Salt Lake to the wide-open expanses of Big Sky Country. Arriving in Missoula feels like you are getting into small town wild America – instead of Starbucks, hunting and fishing shops are king – and we were greeted by one of the drivers from Paws Up in typically laid-back friendly fashion. The hour drive to Paws Up takes in some stunning scenery as you run through a forested valley alongside fast flowing rivers. Finally, a wide-open plain of gently rolling hills set against a backdrop of mountains appears, and in its centre is Paws Up.

After checking in and receiving the keys to our car – each Wilderness House comes complete with car for you to use getting around the 37000 acres that comprise Paws Up – we settled into our house. A quick dip in the hot tub, surrounded by chipmunks and the sounds of the great outdoors preceded dinner in Paws Up's main dining area. Once again, it's impossible not to gorge yourself on huge steaks, and delicious salads, and while the food may not be haute cuisine it is out of this world and totally in keeping with the surroundings. By now the jetlag has worn off, and the conversation wanders on to the plan for the next day, which for me is quad biking followed by clay pigeon shooting.

After a huge breakfast (you can see the theme here), we are taking to the excursion centre and given our helmets before a quick safety briefing on our quads. This was what I had most been looking forward to, and the morning was all I expected it to be and certainly the highlight of my trip. The ride was challenging in places, but as you got more used to the quads the more fun it got. The trip ended near our house, and on a grassy knoll with spectacular views a stunning outdoor lunch had been set up, which really rounded off a fantastic morning.

In the afternoon we went shooting, and what a way to show how big this ranch is, after a 20-minute drive we arrive at the shooting centre, miles away from the main lodge so that the noise doesn't disturb other guests. I had a go at shooting, but it perhaps isn't my strong suit and several missed clays and a particularly bruised shoulder later I was done. Despite my failures it was still a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and all the time surrounded by that stunning Big Sky backdrop. Dinner was another gargantuan affair, at the equestrian centre 20 minutes away again (it really is a massive ranch) and amongst the saddles and riding tack, we dined on Bison and Elk.



Next morning some of our group went fishing and some went mountain biking, I had been chosen for mountain biking, and once again failed miserably at it, or perhaps better put I chickened out. After the first two jumps the guide turned to me and said, "I really didn't expect you to follow me on your first attempt, no one ever does that". He'd clearly forgotten that I'm British – if you tell me to do something, I'll politely do it for fear of offending you; but this was my excuse to miss out on jumps 3 and 4, and instead opt for a gentle ride home.

After lunch – obviously with all the food we had been having I went for the healthy option of a burger and onion rings – came the thing I had most been dreading; horse-riding. I am basically a city boy, and my only other experience on a horse had been in Brazil where the Brazilian Cowboys proceeded to laugh at me for 2 hours as I clung onto a horse. I was partnered with my horse 'Rojo' who was apparently a grumpy horse, and according to the guide "would suit me perfectly". After an initial bit of mutual suspicion, I think Rojo and I bonded quite well, and the afternoon turned out to be amazing. To be riding a horse, herding cattle in the US wild west, really does have a certain romance to it, and even if the cattle went straight back to where we had started herding them from as soon as we left it was still a great experience.

Obviously, the stay was capped by a final steak dinner, and after a morning visiting the various tented camps and seeing the whole range of accommodation on offer, from luxurious tents complete with heating and plush en-suite bathrooms, to huge houses big enough for the whole family, it was sadly time to depart. Our hosts had been fantastic, and I enjoyed the stay from start to finish; this really is a beautiful spot that you can't help getting excited about. For me it was my first experience of a ranch style trip and I cannot recommend it highly enough. From honeymooners looking for something a bit different, to family stays, there really is something here for everyone, and Paws Up does a wonderful job of catering for all types of holiday makers.



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Luxury Garden Pool Villa on a half-board basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,130 PER PERSON



**THE RESIDENCE ZANZIBAR**

Zanzibar! The very name conjures up images of an exotic island at the centre of the spice trade, fragrant streets and alleys lined with mystery, and adventure at every turn. And there's no better way to succumb to the allure of Zanzibar than with a stay at The Residence. Less than an hour from Zanzibar City, this villa resort is backed by lush gardens and opens out onto its own private beach. Two restaurants and a lounge bar keep you refreshed if you need to venture away from your private pool area, and you will want to step out as there's so much to do on land and sea. With dolphin safaris and jeep drives into a local forest reserve, not to mention the nearby village of Kizimkazi to give you a taste of traditional Tanzanian life, The Residence Zanzibar is ideally situated to give you the very best of this stunning part of the world, and to cosset you in the height of luxury while you enjoy your surroundings.



**NIZUC RESORT & SPA, Mexico**

Cancun is famed for a lot of things – beaches, diving, golf, great weather– but if you only go for one reason, what better one than multi-award-winning resort and spa, NIZUC? With great snorkeling and diving in the Mexican Caribbean you'd be forgiven for spending your whole time in the water; but NIZUC is located in the heart of Mayan history with the great pyramid of Chichen Itza just a short drive away, along with Tulum, the only fortified Mayan city in this region. With so much to see and do here, you'll need time and at NIZUC, **3rd night's the charm** when you book a minimum of three nights because the resort will make that 3rd night **complimentary for the whole family**. Complimentary access to Winik's kids club is included so not only is the 3rd night free, so is a lot more of your time to enjoy Cancun.



**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Garden Suite on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,110 PER PERSON



**ANGSANA BALACLAVA, Mauritius**

Turtle Bay on Mauritius, with its ivory beaches and warm azure seas, is home to one of the finest hotels in the Indian Ocean – Angsana Balaclava. With excellent bar and dining choices and even a ballroom, your evenings will be many and varied, and the warm waters provide ample opportunities for diving, snorkelling and all manner of aquatic fun. However you will definitely want to find time to visit the *Angsana Spa*, an award-winning wellness

centre which offers a cornucopia of treatments as well as Wellness Retreats, which combine the best of a host of worldly remedies including Ayurvedic methods, holistic activities and refined Wellness cuisine – after all the best way to look after your body is from the inside as well as the out. And as Angsana Balaclava is part of the Banyan Tree family of hotels, you can rest assured the comforts and service will be immaculate.



Smoothies can absolutely be a part of your strategy for healthy, lasting weight loss—if that's what you're after—but only when done right. Quench your thirst with this exclusive selection of our healthy fresh juice recipes from 'Angsana Balaclava Mauritius'.

*Tips: Use fresh fruit and juice where possible. Add all ingredients to the blender before adding ice (if preferred).*

**Watermelon Breakfast Smoothie**

- 750g Chopped watermelon
- 2tsp Lime juice
- 1-2 cm Ginger
- 10-15 Fresh mint leaves

1. Blend all ingredients together until smooth and pour into glass.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Stay 7 nights in a Garden Lagoon Suite on a breakfast basis, including return economy flights, private transfers and access to the airport lounge on departure from London.  
FROM £2,655 PER PERSON

Angsana Balaclava, Mauritius – Wellness at its best in the heart of the Indian Ocean.



*Park Hyatt St. Kitts*

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journey our world of luxury

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