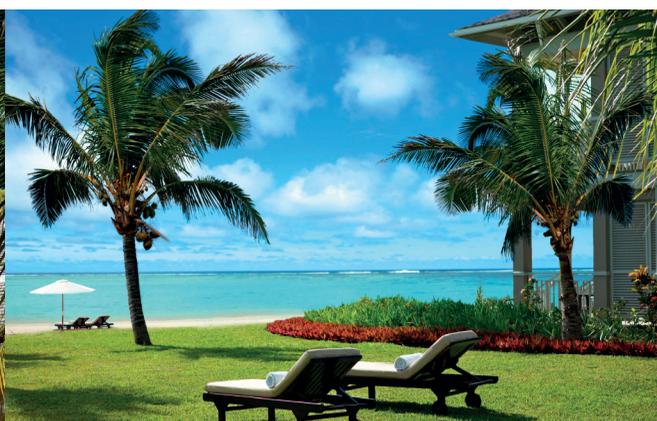
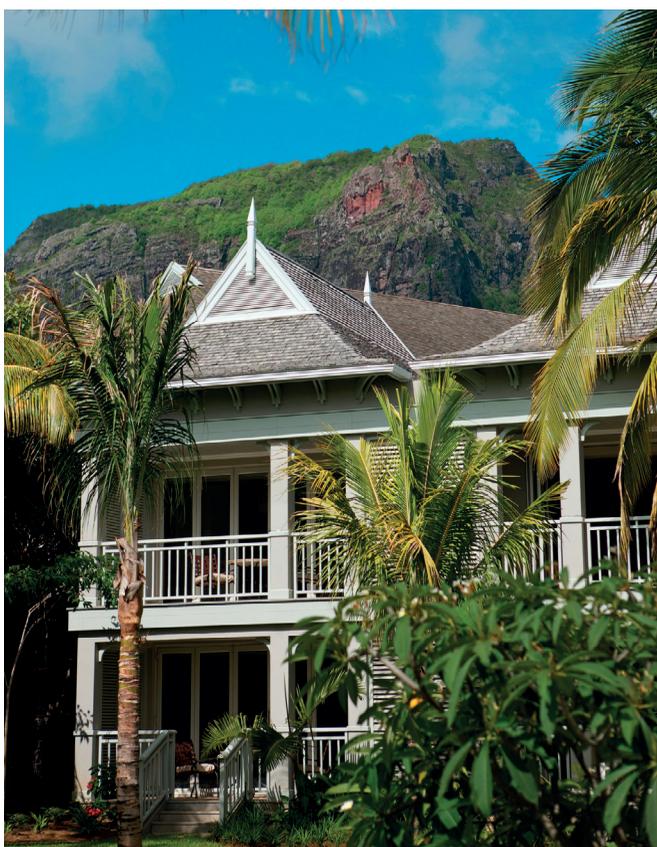




Where in the world

SEA + I brings you the latest from the world of luxury travel



ST REGIS OPENS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Honouring its reputation for elegance and luxury, the St Regis chain is due to open a new resort in the heart of the Indian Ocean this September. Located on the southwest coast of the island of Le Morne, often referred to as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', the resort backs onto the iconic Le Morne Brabant Mountain and has 172 guestrooms and suites and a beachfront villa.

For the epicurean traveller, the resort offers six different cuisines – from French-inspired

dishes to traditional Mauritian cuisine and Japanese specialities. In keeping with tradition, the resort has "The 1904 Bar" – named after the bar in the first St Regis hotel in New York.

The resort's facilities are extensive and include a huge health club, the brand's signature Iridium Spa, a Jacuzzi, sauna, swimming pool, library and cinema. Sports enthusiasts will be impressed with the kite surfing opportunities of One Eye at Le Morne, where the annual World Championship Kite Surfing Tour is held.

www.stregis.com/mauritius

THE RESORT BACKS ONTO THE ICONIC LE MORNE BRABANT MOUNTAIN

MÖVENPICK'S TASTE FOR ASIA

Mövenpick is set to take Asia by storm over the next three years. Perhaps the most interesting of its 15 properties scheduled to open on this continent is the Palawan Resort on its newly managed island, Huma. This private island is at the heart of the breathtaking Palawan Province in the Philippines and is a haven for those looking to escape.

The region is dotted with 1,768 islands that cover 1.5 million hectares of white sandy beaches, rainforests, mountain ranges, ancient caves and underground rivers, and it is a perfect spot for divers given its vast stretch



of untouched coral reef. The resort, the only one on the island, comprises 80 over-water bungalows and has a choice of six restaurants offering varied cuisine. Guests can also escape to a spa with six treatment rooms fitted with a glass floor to enable viewing of the marine life below – surely the most relaxing way to explore the underwater world. www.moevenpick-hotels.com



MUSTIQUE TURNS ITALIAN

The Caribbean island of Mustique has long been a popular destination for guests looking for a secluded, relaxed lifestyle. A recent addition to its portfolio of rental properties is the new Italian-style Sienna villa. Boasting a spectacular view, thanks to its elevated hillside location, it overlooks the stunning Macaroni Beach, Atlantic Ocean and neighbouring islands.

Sienna has two outdoor swimming pools, one of which has a swim-in grotto, a professional-standard kitchen, gymnasium, media room and an abundance of in-house entertainment. The perfect party pad, this palatial property has five en-suite bedrooms that can accommodate up to 10 guests, a magnificent living room boasting a grand chandelier, five household staff and a large Kawasaki mule for nipping around the island. www.mustique-island.com/villa/sienna



THE SIENNA VILLA ON THE ISLAND OF MUSTIQUE HAS TWO OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS, ONE OF WHICH HAS A SWIM-IN GROTTO

CARIBBEAN MINI CASTLE

Greystone Cottage on the island of Mustique is opening its doors after a year-long renovation. This delightful three-bedroom villa is constructed of natural stone and has a turret offering stunning views across the island and sea. www.mustique-island.com/villa/

FRENCH FANCY

The Grand Hôtel de Bordeaux & Spa recently launched its new NUXE spa. The Bains de Léa. Situated on the top three floors of the hotel, the spa includes a magnificent wraparound roof terrace with breathtaking panoramic views of Bordeaux. www.ghbordeaux.com



SRILANKA STYLE

The Sri Lankan family owned boutique hotel The Wallawwa, situated in three acres in Kotugoda, Katunayake, has been renovated. A prime choice for luxurious accommodation, it offers spa facilities and exquisite Asian fusion cuisine at The Verandah. www.thewallawwa.com



INTO THE DRAGON KINGDOM

For something a bit different, head to Bhutan where COMO Hotels and Resorts has just opened Uma Punakha. The luxurious lodge comprises 11 rooms and a spa retreat. The surrounding area promises fantastic outdoor activities, such as rafting, hiking and mountain biking. www.uma.como.bz/



MONACO'S 25 YEARS OF DUCASSE

The iconic Louis XV restaurant is celebrating its quarter-century anniversary in true Monegasque style. Alain Ducasse's three-Michelin starred legend is breaking out the champagne with a special seven-course menu, available until 25 November. www.alain-ducasse.com



BOOK A TRIP TO BALI

Balinese jungles, awe-inspiring vistas and a celebration of literary talent combine this October as Alila Ubud launches four new Valley Villas in time for the annual Writers & Readers Festival (3 to 7 October). The villas are the perfect retreat from the bustle of Ubud. www.alilahotels.com/ubud

GRECIAN GODDESS

Set on a hilltop on the east coast of the Peloponnese, the new 38-suite Amanzoe from Aman Resorts brings you the best of Greek luxury. An ideal base from which to explore the ancient archaeological sites of the region, the resort has an Aman Spa, beach club and sea-view pool. www.amanresorts.com/amanzoe/home.aspx



BOUTIQUE BRAZIL

The remote mountains of Campos do Jordão in Brazil welcome the new Botanique Hotel & Spa this autumn. The hotel, just two hours north of São Paulo, has 11 private villas and six suites set over 700 acres, with a Brazilian spa carved into the hillside.

THE NEWLY RENOVATED RANCHO VALENCIA RESORT & SPA EXTENDS OVER 40 ACRES OF LUSH LANDSCAPES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA DREAM

Following a six-month, US\$20 million renovation, the award-winning Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa re-opened this summer. This superb estate extends over 40 acres of lush landscapes in Rancho Santa, Southern California, and boasts a wealth of activities, being particularly well known for its world-class tennis facilities, including 18 championship courts, tennis clinics and private lessons. Guests also have access to a full-service spa with sauna and steam room, a 24-hour fitness centre, a polo-inspired bar and lounge, two pools, a croquet lawn and the nearby Farms Golf Club.

Accommodation is in individually designed suites, a three-suite private Hacienda with wood-burning fireplaces in almost every room, or luxurious three-bedroom villas with outdoor hot tubs, terraces and gourmet kitchens. For those who don't wish to cook, the resort's acclaimed 'The Restaurant' serves fine coastal-ranch cuisine on a large outdoor terrace. The vibrant city of San Diego is nearby with world-class shopping. Sailing and hot-air ballooning over the canyon landscapes can be arranged for guests.

www.ranchovalencia.com

A BRUSH WITH ARTISTIC DECOR

The opening of the Andaz Amsterdam inspires a new reason to visit The Netherlands' capital city. Situated on the Prinsengracht (Prince Canal) in the historic centre of Amsterdam, the hotel is within walking distance of many major tourist and retail attractions. Located on the site of the former Public Library, the façade retains its original charm but inside the building has been completely transformed with contemporary styling. Clean white décor is artistically punctuated with bold splashes of colour on high-back armchairs, and stunning lighting illuminates public areas. This 122-bedroom hotel – including five luxury suites – also has a signature Andaz Spa and a gymnasium. www.amsterdam.prinsengracht.andazhyatt.com



NEW YORK'S HYATT-SOCIETY LIVING

When you're visiting the city that never sleeps, a base at the heart of all the attractions is a wise choice, and the new Hyatt Union Square occupies the perfect location. Due to open this autumn, this stylish 178-bedroom hotel has an historic façade and every modern convenience. The entrance lobby has a stunning, vaulted ceiling and there is a range of luxurious facilities, such as a fitness centre and a variety of restaurants, including an all-day American brasserie and a South American cellar restaurant. The hotel also has an exclusive rooftop lounge and private terraces. www.unionsquare.hyatt.com/

MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

Gstaad in Switzerland is preparing for the opening of The Alpina this December. This is the first five-star hotel to have been built in Gstaad for 100 years. Guests can enjoy its vast Six Senses spa and spectacular views of the Bernese Alps. www.thealpinagstaad.ch



NEW TO THE CITY OF SAILS

Sofitel recently opened a new hotel in New Zealand. Located on the waterfront in Auckland, this lavish property offers suites with balconies and oversized bathrooms, a private pontoon, stunning panoramic views, a spa and indoor pool. www.sofitel.com

A TASTE OF TORONTO

The new 259-room, 55-storey Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto is accepting reservations from early October. The hotel offers the trademark Four Seasons relaxation and rejuvenation treatment menu in its spa and features cuisine from international chef Daniel Boulud. www.fourseasons.com/toronto

THAI TREATS

The Geo Spa at the Four Seasons Resort Langkawi in Thailand launched this summer in the UNESCO Geopark. The spa features natural treatments by *ila*, and each is accompanied by a rejuvenating yoga programme and a choice of bathing rituals. www.fourseasons.com/langkawi

HEIGHTS OF LUXURY

With the winter ski season fast approaching, finding the perfect hotel becomes all-important. Opening this November, the Sport Hotel Hermitage and Spa in Andorra, Spain, promises ultimate alpine luxury. The heart-pounding Grandvalira ski slopes are nearby and the hotel excels in gourmet cuisine, but one of the main attractions has to be the five-floor Sport Wellness

Mountain Spa, with its refreshing, bright design that seems to bring the mountain inside. The spa includes saunas, steam rooms and hydrotherapy pools.

After a day on the slopes or in the spa, treat yourself to a choice of gourmet food in the Origen restaurant or more traditional Catalan cooking in Arrels. Guests can also enjoy the nearby Palau de Gel ice rink, helicopter rides, skidoos and dog sledding. www.elegantresorts.co.uk



MOSAIC ON A MISSION

New hotel company Mosaic announces the opening of its first boutique hotel – the Mosaic Palais Aziza & Spa in Marrakesh, Morocco. Mosaic's mission is to specialise in high-quality hotels with a unique sense of character and place. Palais Aziza is certainly an inspired start for the company. Built with local materials, its design seamlessly blends with the surrounding area. The hotel encompasses 28 unique rooms and suites reflecting various styles from traditional Moroccan to more funky, contemporary designs. For a more secluded experience, the hotel offers private villas and pavilions with their own gardens and pools. The hotel has two restaurants: Maroliano combines Moroccan and Italian food, and La Pergola offers a salad and grill menu. Pre and post dining, guests can enjoy the Mosaic Bar & Lounge and Citrus Bar. The spa is equally enticing, with locally produced Argan oil and shea butter highlighting the treatments. The Palais Aziza is ten minutes from the bustling Medina. www.mosaicpalaisaziza.com



MOSAIC INTENDS TO SPECIALISE IN HIGH-QUALITY HOTELS WITH A UNIQUE SENSE OF CHARACTER AND PLACE



TWO NEW FOR TURKEY

The two latest additions to the family-owned Marti group opened this summer. The Marti Istanbul (centre left and bottom) is the hottest hotel to have opened in Turkey's capital city this summer and its stunning contemporary design comes courtesy of award-winning designer Zeynep Fadilloğlu. The hotel's city location in Taksim – the heart of modern Istanbul – facilitates access to the shopping, cultural and commercial centre of the city and is within reach of the bazaars and places of major historical interest. The hotel has 270 lavish guest rooms and suites, all with Ottoman styling. Indulge in Marti's Brasserie, the Quad Restaurant & Bar and traditional Turkish spa facilities on the top floor, including a glass-walled gymnasium.

For a more understated experience of Turkey, the new Marti Hemithea Hotel in Marmaris is set in the spectacular Hisarönü Bay where the Mediterranean meets the Aegean. Fabulous sea views combine with fine dining, including the peaceful Yacht Club and the Patisserie, with its home-baked pastries, cookies, breads and Turkish börek. The bedrooms are tastefully styled, reflecting the current trend in



top modern Turkish hotels. Guests are kept busy during the day with the spa, Marti Sailing School, pool and beach. www.martiistanbulhotel.com; martihemitheahotel.com