

YTL

Life

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ISLE ON THE THAMES

Unveiling the luxurious Monkey Island Estate

LOCAL FLAVOURS

Getting a taste of coastal life at Pangkor Laut Resort

STREET FOOD SENSATION

Feasting on Thai food at The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui



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PANGKOR LAUT RESORT
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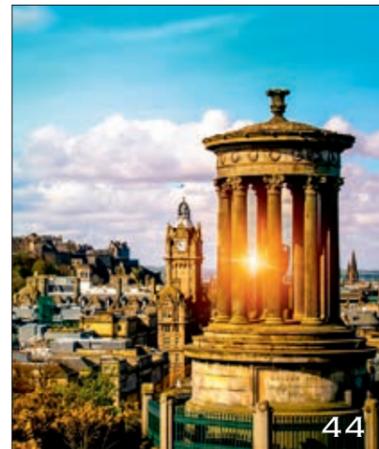


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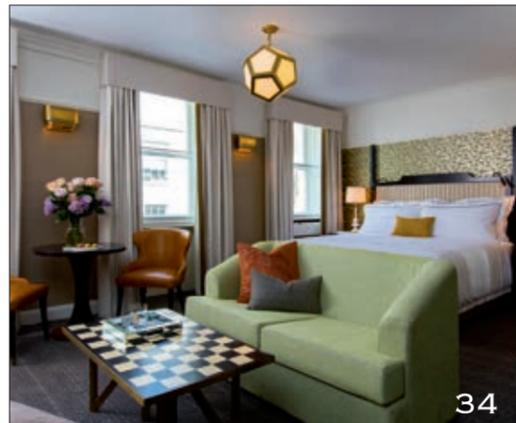
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Your eyes lock with a Proboscis monkey's for the first time.

It makes a strange noise.

And you don't know whether to stand in awe or run.

Your moment awaits.

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PORTFOLIO OF LIFE

The world of YTL Hotels



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Discover exquisite interiors by the renowned Champalimaud Design, British cuisine with modern accents, a floating spa on the Thames, and a rustic English way of life that seemingly has not altered for hundreds of years. The Estate, along with our other United Kingdom hotels – The Gainsborough Bath Spa, The Glasshouse Hotel Edinburgh and our two London properties, The Academy Hotel and Threadneedles Hotel – richly encompasses the UK's history, culture and heritage.

At MUSE St. Tropez in the South of France, we reveal La Tente by Spa Village. It is an intriguing concept that matches the area's immaculate natural setting with the luxury spa experience. Treatments at La Tente by Spa Village take place in a safari tent using Provence's legendary herbs and flowers.

The award-winning Pangkor Laut Resort, on a jewel of an island in the Straits of Malacca, shares a similar approach. The Chef's Kitchen Experience is a curated activity that is unique to the resort. It is a great way for guests to learn about the local fishing community's way of life, including how their delicious cuisine is prepared.

These, along with other special experiences, await each guest at all our properties. We hope to welcome you soon.

At YTL Hotels, we take great pride in welcoming our esteemed guests to the authentic heart of each of our properties. With Monkey Island Estate, located in Bray-on-Thames, United Kingdom, this notion of authenticity dates back over 800 years. The Estate, built on an island in the River Thames, is closely intertwined with tales of royalty, noblemen, artists, performers and other movers and shakers of each age that has gone before.

Now the immaculately restored Monkey Island Estate welcomes this century's luxury trendsetters.

A NEW SLICE OF PARADISE

THAILAND WELCOMES THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI, A PROPERTY CREATING MEMORIES FOR ALL GENERATIONS OF TRAVELLERS.

Words KENNETH TAN



The recent official launch of The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui saw the resort celebrate the 'Samui Way of Life' through a cornucopia of memorable experiences. Invited guests for the weekend were charmed by the gentle, vernacular architecture of 175 suites and pool villas across 58 acres of oceanfront land, ranging from hilltop to beach, fringed by coconut palms.

Guests indulged in a variety of delights from fine Thai cuisine to muay thai. There was also time to explore the hotel's swim reef teeming with over 50 species of fish as well as to relax at the 3,800-square-metre Spa Village Koh Samui and its signature Songkran Shower. At the gala evening, guests feasted on an exquisite dinner



(1) From left: Mahmoud Skaf (Area General Manager), Ken Rehmann (Chief Financial Officer of Asia Pacific for Marriott International), Craig Smith (President and Managing Director of Asia Pacific for Marriott International), Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh (Managing Director of YTL Group of Companies), Dato' Mark Yeoh Executive Director of YTL Hotels) and Raj Menon (Chief Operating Officer of Asia Pacific (excluding Greater China) for Marriott International). (2) Ms Namtip Thaugsuban and Mr Nicholas Ho. (3) ML Kathathong and ML Kwankamol Thongyai. (4) Mrs Supapan Pichaironarongsongkram. (5) Ms Rebekah Yeoh (Corporate Finance Manager of YTL Corporation Berhad) and Ms Shaz Elyza. (6) Mrs Nontakarn Dabbaransi Ng and Mr Kenneth Dabbaransi Ng.



of lobster and Thai-infused flavours, crafted by Executive Chef Jose Chelo Ballester, capped by a Thai tea panna cotta. The spectacular fireworks then segued into an after-party on the beach with international DJs and delicious cocktails.

In his address, Tan Sri (Dr) Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Group of Companies, announced: "It is truly exciting to be in Koh Samui – an island that has long had a reputation for its extraordinary and charming island life, and authentic Thai hospitality and culture; a destination that is a perennial favourite among domestic and international travellers. We have been blessed to have the opportunity to create memories on this tropical paradise."

AT THE GALA EVENING, GUESTS FEASTED ON AN EXQUISITE DINNER OF LOBSTER AND THAI-INFUSED FLAVOURS, CRAFTED BY EXECUTIVE CHEF JOSE CHELO BALLESTER, CAPPED BY A THAI TEA PANNA COTTA.



(1) Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Francis Yeoh. (2) From left: Piyapat Worawanich, Ausanee Mahagitsiri Leonio, Ploenchon Vinyaratn, M.L. Kwankamol Thongyai, M.L. Radeetep Devakula, M.L. Kathathong Thongyai and Ms Prinya Ruenprapan. (3) Mr Jacob Yeoh, Deputy CEO of YTL Communications and Ms Geraldine Dreiser, Vice President of Marketing for YTL Hotels. (4) Fireworks show on the roof. (5) Dr. Cathleen Kichodhan.





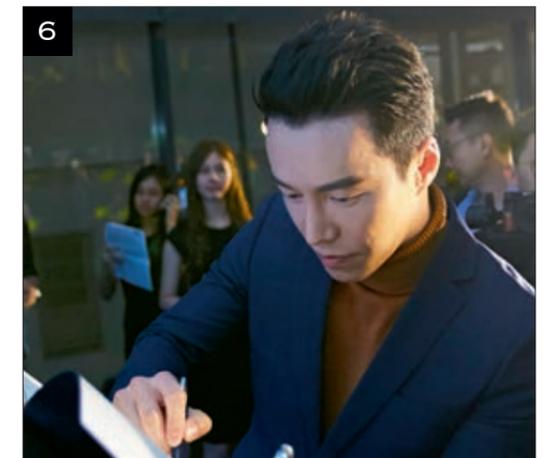
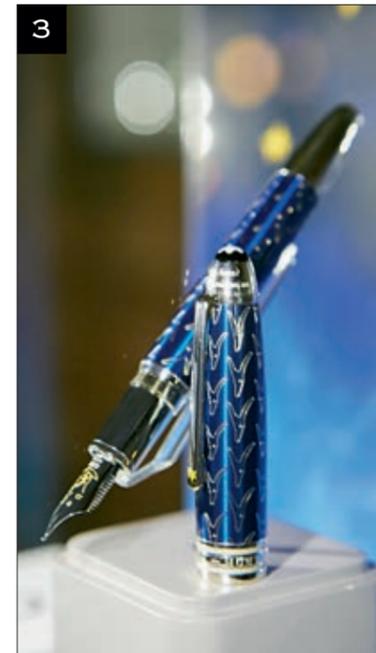
GALLERY OF IMAGINATION

MONTBLANC LAUNCHES ITS NEW MEISTERSTUCK LE PETIT PRINCE COLLECTION AT HOTEL STRIPES KUALA LUMPUR.

Words KENNETH TAN

Antoine Saint-Exupery's literary classic *Le Petit Prince* came to life at Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, an Autograph Collection property which expresses its boutique nature though uniqueness in design and thoughtfulness of spirit. That brand DNA came to the fore at The Snug, the property's cosy event venue, as one of the most-translated books in the world, *The Little Prince*, was realised as an event with a mystical 'day' and 'night' universe.

Guests embarked on their journey with Montblanc within a space recreated as a 'Gallery of Imagination' with a gigantic book of water-coloured illustrations and drawings. A 3D pop-up elements gallery brought visitors deeper into the Saint-Exupery universe, while a handicrafts area offered paper-quilled cards decorated with characters from the book. The evening developed into a sumptuous affair of cocktails, canapés and a viewing of the Meisterstuck Le Petit Prince Collection with its array of writing instruments, fine stationery and men's jewellery.



(1) The 3D pop-up elements gallery.
 (2) Montblanc International CEO Nicolas Baretzki with Friend of Montblanc, actor Lawrence Wong. (3) Montblanc Meisterstuck Le Petit Prince Solitaire fountain pen.
 (4) The Snug, a unique and inspiring multi-functional space for one-of-a-kind events, was transformed into a dark universe for the unveiling of the Meisterstuck Le Petit Prince Special Edition. (5) A paper-quilled card with the title character from *The Little Prince*.
 (6) Lawrence Wong.

A GRAND VISION

STAYING AT MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IS COMPARABLE TO TAKING A DELIGHTFUL TRIP EXPLORING ENGLAND'S RICH TAPESTRY OF CULTURE, HISTORY, CUISINE AND, OF COURSE, LUXURY.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN





A short car ride from Maidenhead, Monkey Island was previously known for the risqué and utterly decadent parties Charles Spencer, the third Duke of Marlborough, used to hold at its fishing pavilion. The venue was an Arcadian temple of bucolic luxury on a private island. HG Wells met Dorothy Parker at this storied location. This was also where Dame Nellie Melba partied as indulgently as the next titled guest.

As it did in the past, the entrance to Monkey Island Estate faces a country lane. Round the corner from this is a magnificent black grilled iron gate. At the end of the short sweeping driveway, beyond the boathouse reception, a glittering jewel of a building is embedded along the indigo-hued River Thames. And a little farther on the right is the legendary fishing pavilion.

This bijou 41-room property and six private residences are all about thoughtful details and



Dame Nellie Melba was one of Monkey Island Estate's esteemed visitors.

vegetables and salad leaves that will eventually find their way to the Estate kitchens – the Monkey Island Brasserie has plans to serve Estate-pickled vegetables to diners soon.

Inside the Estate, guests can take in the heritage scene at the wood-panelled Grade One-listed Monkey Room and admire the monkey paintings on the lacquered wood ceiling mentioned by Lady Hertford in her journal. The artworks depict monkeys fishing, shooting, boating, all dressed in the fashion of the day in numerous river scenes. Also known as *singerie*, they were painted by French artist Andie de Clermont in the 17th century. The Monkey Room was used as a banqueting room in the 18th century.

On the floor above, accessible by a narrow wood staircase, is the Estate's whisky keep and snug. Narrowly tucked away above the Monkey Room, the Whisky Snug is an intimate, secret nook to have an after-dinner drink just before turning in for the night.

For dinner there is a choice to dine in the elegant main room of the Monkey Island Brasserie or to walk through the French doors to a table on the terrace with riverside views of the Thames. The Estate's head chef has crafted a menu that is at once a modern interpretation of British classics as well as one that chimes with the Estate's vision for dedicated sustainability.

The accommodation choices at Monkey Island Estate are exquisite. Take your pick of the stunning Barn Rooms, set in the Barn on the Bray mainland, with its elegant English country house ambience. The Barn Double rooms have luxurious marble en-suite bathrooms with walk-in showers. Then, there are the Temple Rooms with views of the River Thames and the Estate's picturesque grounds; the Temple Double rooms, too, feature marble en-suite bathrooms with walk-in showers. Those seeking more space would be enamoured of the opulent Temple Suite, a beautiful space

informal luxury. Guests staying in-house are also treated to drinks from a complimentary minibar and a bottle each of Monkey Island Estate's own brew of Windsor Knot pale ale. This is the local craft beer behind the Windsor Ale for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding. More recently, a special brew was created to celebrate the nuptials of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Monkey Island Estate's tucked-away location – accessible by footbridge, boat or helicopter – by the River Thames has been the setting for many a celebration over the centuries. The exclusive property and its elegant gardens boast inimitable event spaces and picturesque settings for dream weddings and anniversary celebrations. These versatile spaces are composed of the stately Ballroom, the graceful River Room and the cosier Spencer Suite for more intimate soirees. Only 10 minutes from Windsor and under an hour from London, Monkey Island Estate along with the timeless River Thames flowing past ensures a momentous beginning to (or continuation of) any love story.

The Kitchen Gardens is where guests may harvest herbs for the Head Bartender to make their own botanical cocktail. For instance, they can pick some borage and rosemary from the raised beds of aromatic herbs to create one-of-a-kind aromatic tipples. Or they can sample one of nine signature drinks from the Monkey Bar menu.

Next to the herbs are numerous rows of

THE KITCHEN GARDENS IS WHERE GUESTS MAY HARVEST HERBS FOR THE HEAD BARTENDER TO MAKE THEIR OWN BOTANICAL COCKTAIL.







MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE HAS PLANS FOR GUESTS TO EXPERIENCE RUSTIC ENGLISH COUNTRY LIVING.

comprising a separate seating area and charming views of the island grounds and the River Thames.

Monkey Island Estate has plans for guests to experience rustic English country living. They may even be invited to select from the property's chicken coop, eggs for breakfast. Located nearby will be the beehive, and next to it, The Tea House. It's hoped that once the beehive project is up and running, there will be enough Monkey Island Estate honey to retail to visiting guests. The charmingly named Tea House, this is an authentic Victorian greenhouse with an elegant cast-iron structure. Inside, the Estate cultivates Darjeeling tea among other teas both for consumption as well as for the spa.

Highly recommended by the Estate's concierge is a treatment in The Floating Spa by Spa Village, which is located on a bespoke barge moored by the River Thames. The luxury spa is the first of its kind, and uses all-natural products from premium brands ISUN, Haeckels and Moss of the Isles. Treatments are

inspired by the spirit of adventure seen through the years on this great river, a celebration of the power and beauty of water and the island.

For a delectable Afternoon Tea, the former Fishing Temple and its country house setting with interiors by Alexandra Champalimaud is both calming and pretty.

For an adventure outdoors, opt for a river cruise on the Dragonfly boat. Usually moored across the bank from the Floating Spa, the boat is a fabulous way to explore life along the river while sipping champagne. The cruise is available on Friday and Saturday and for a maximum of 12 passengers. Dragonfly is also available for charters.

Beyond the Estate and its compelling attractions, the town of Bray-on-Thames is an international foodie capital with a pair of three-Michelin starred restaurants: Michel Roux's Waterside Inn and Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck.

Edward VII and Queen Alexandra taking tea on the lawns. Facing page: Charles Spencer, the third Duke of Marlborough.



TALES OF THE ISLAND

Monkey Island's near millennia-old story began with the monks of Merton Priory who settled in the area in 1197. They built fishponds nearby and called the island Monks Eyot, which is possibly the reason for its name.

Some three centuries later, Monkey Island was sold to the Englefield family. Soon after, London experienced one of its worst fires in 1666. A flurry of reconstruction followed and some of the rubble was piled onto the island. This elevated the land beyond flood level, making it suitable for construction. In 1723, Charles Spencer, the third Duke of Marlborough, purchased the land. He commissioned two buildings from

Palladian architect Robert Morris: a two-storey Fishing Temple and an octagonal Fishing Pavilion for sleeping and entertaining.

In the intervening century after the Duke's death in 1758, Monkey Island became a popular riverside attraction. By 1840, the Pavilion had transformed into an inn. Here, some three decades on, Mrs Plummer the landlady served drinks through the bar window next to the Monkey Room.

This soon led to parties of a more glamorous nature. The island became the by-word for stately country living. Guests included royalty such as Edward VII who, in a 1905 photograph, could

be seen taking afternoon tea beneath walnut trees. Then there were the 20th-century literary greats such as WWI poet Siegfried Sassoon, HG Wells and Rebecca West, who penned her 1918 novel *The Return of the Soldier*, based on her experiences on Monkey Island.

YTL Hotels, working with the award-winning Champalimaud Design, has completely renovated the historic buildings with their exquisite details. Monkey Island Estate is a seamless addition to the beautiful village of Bray-on-Thames, where visitors and locals can once again enjoy the centuries-old architecture, serene Thames setting and exclusive island welcome.

THE ESTATE ALSO MANAGES SIX BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED PRIVATE RESIDENCES, WHICH CAN BE BOOKED FOR BETWEEN TWO AND 12 GUESTS.

HISTORY-MEETS-LUXURY IN RUSTIC BRAY

The Estate also manages six beautifully appointed private residences, which can be booked for between two and 12 guests. These come with concierge and bed turndown services as well as those of a private chef, if required.

Long White Cloud, a grand 19th-century property, marries the warmth of a period home with modern comforts. It features four large bedrooms, an impressive kitchen, a spacious living room and an indoor plunge pool. There is also a charming garden that provides a lovely area to enjoy al fresco dining or barbecues. The building comes with a fascinating history. Renowned composer Sir Edward Elgar was known to have stayed here, and created some of his finest works while in residence. A more recent occupant was former Formula One driver, Stirling Moss.

Next door is Sundial Cottage, the former home of Sylvia Anderson, co-creator of the TV show *Thunderbirds*. The three-bedroom property comes with a comfortable living room to relax in after a day exploring Bray. At Brooke House, guests wishing to entertain will delight in this spacious home with its four luxuriously appointed bedrooms, a well-appointed living room and a fully equipped kitchen.

Bray House sleeps six and was built in 1780 as the stables of the Manor House. The decor has a 1920s appeal as well as 21st-century updates, such as a Bang

& Olufsen sound system. The dining room leads to a welcoming courtyard garden that is always sunlit. The residence, which has served as a former cobbler's shop, an antique centre and a family home through the centuries, has been thoughtfully restored, retaining its original historical features, no doubt incorporating details from the nearby beautiful Lych Gate that dates back to 1488.

Lavender Cottage, located on Church Lane in the heart of Bray, is a double-fronted white private residence that dates back to the early 1700s. The property, which sleeps six, was created from three cottages and celebrates outdoor living with the indoors seamlessly fanning out to the gorgeous garden. On the ground floor is the Cinema Room with a Bang & Olufsen sound system and a movie library.

The 500-year-old Dormer Cottage, with its wooden beams and an open fireplace with a log burner, sleeps two and is the smallest. It is perfect for a stay during the autumn and winter seasons. Here, contemporary interiors take centre stage. Think slate flooring, Stephani rugs, a dramatic burnt orange silk clad wall, gorgeous curtains, a Bang & Olufsen sound system and subtle lighting that projects modern elegance and sleek style.

For more information, please visit www.monkeyislandestate.co.uk



The luxurious and exclusive private residences have an authentic charm.



BLOOMSBURY DELUXE

THE ACADEMY HOTEL, LONDON IS ALL ABOUT
LOW-KEY GLAMOUR AT THE HEART OF THE WEST END.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN

AFTER A BUSY DAY, POP INTO THE ALCHEMY BAR THAT SERVES ALKKEMIST GIN, A TIPPLE DESCRIBED AS A HEADY BLEND OF “SAMPHIRE, MUSCAT GRAPE AND A DISTILLATION UNDER THE MOON’S LIGHT TO CREATE AN UNMATCHED ELIXIR”.



Situated in the heart of Bloomsbury in London’s West End, The Academy comprises a collection of five Georgian townhouses combined into one charming luxury hotel. The cosy Alchemy Bar (facing page) is housed on the ground floor.

Not one but two private gardens distinguish The Academy Hotel, a Small Luxury Hotel of the World gem in central London. Five elegant Georgian houses comprise the 50-room boutique hotel, which recently unveiled its multi-million pound reinvigoration of its public spaces, bar, restaurant and guestrooms.

After a busy day, pop into The Alchemy Bar that serves Alkkemist gin, a tipple described as a heady blend of “samphire, Muscat grape and a distillation under the moon’s light to create an unmatched elixir”. The equally exquisite bar is just the spot to enjoy a botanical cocktail. Savour

the expertly made libation in a setting that’s all about crushed velvet and jungle green wallpaper.

If the weather’s warm enough, soak in the outdoor scene along with fellow guests at The Courtyard. Nursing your bespoke cocktail in this tranquil oasis you’d never guess that The Academy Hotel is located on busy Gower Street in a lively university neighbourhood.

The Library, a cosy space at the centre of the hotel, is an acknowledgement of the intellectual and literary heritage of The Academy Hotel. The recently introduced Academy Book Club will host book launches and readings by contemporary British authors here from time to time.

The Townhouse single or twin rooms are perfect





From above:
the lobby; The
Alchemy Bar.
Facing page:
The Courtyard.

THE LIBRARY, A COSY SPACE AT THE CENTRE OF THE HOTEL, IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL AND LITERARY HERITAGE OF THE ACADEMY HOTEL.

if you're visiting with friends. But upgrading to the more spacious Bloomsbury Suites, two of which are located in each of the five houses, makes you feel more like coming home to your own elegant studio after a busy day of sightseeing or shopping in many of London's superlative stores.

For more information, please visit www.theacademyhotel.co.uk



ENGLISH GARDENS IN THE SQUARE MILE

THREADNEEDLES HOTEL MAKES FOR AN UNEXPECTED HORTICULTURAL TOURING BASE IN THE FAST-PACED CITY OF LONDON.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



Threadneedles Hotel enjoys proximity to pockets of greenery in the Square Mile such as St-Dunstan-in-the-East



ONCE THE DISTINGUISHED HEADQUARTERS OF THE LONDON, CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, THE HOTEL NOW BOASTS A CLASSIC SEAFOOD RESTAURANT – MARCO PIERRE WHITE'S WHEELER'S OF ST JAMES' GRILL ROOM.

Roman London, unofficially known as The Square Mile, does not measure exactly one square mile but it is where Londonium was founded in 43 AD, encircled by a wall, parts of which can still be seen today. It was the Victorians who nicknamed the area 'The Square Mile', the location of Empire-period property Threadneedles Hotel. Once the distinguished headquarters of the London, City and Midland Bank, the hotel now boasts a classic seafood restaurant – Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's of St James's Grill Room.

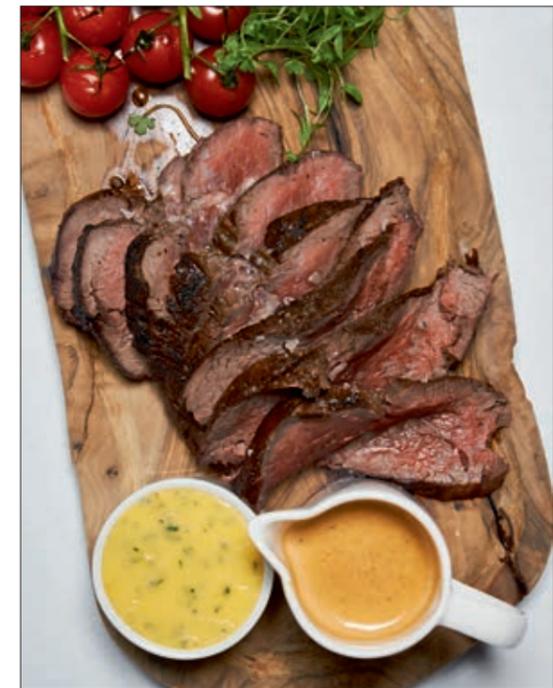
The 74-room hotel is a marvellous place to take in the British capital's sights. It's also the perfect base for some insider horticultural adventures. From the fifth floor penthouse, composed of two Deluxe Rooms and two Suites with its own private lift lined in leather, enjoy the cityscape from the full-length balcony overlooking London's world-famous skyline, stretching from St Paul's Cathedral to The Shard, south of the River Thames.



Enjoy tucking into a traditional English breakfast at the hotel, then pop outside, armed with a map from your trusty concierge. Wander down medieval lanes to visit secret gardens, squares, churchyards and ad hoc green plantings – all 200 of them – in The Square Mile. Visit tiny St-Dunstan-in-the-East as well as the oldest public park in London – Finsbury Circus Garden – with trees that were planted in 1606. However, many of these gardens were created after the Great Fire in 1666. They resulted from pockets of unused land that transformed into today's little-known spreads of greenery.

Some of these pockets of green are available for hire. Plan a small wedding or a surprise outdoor party in one of these verdant outdoor spaces, an event that you can later continue indoors in the stained glass-domed lobby of Threadneedles Hotel, catered by Marco Pierre White along with bespoke cocktails by the hotel's mixologist.

For more information, please visit www.hotelthreadneedles.co.uk



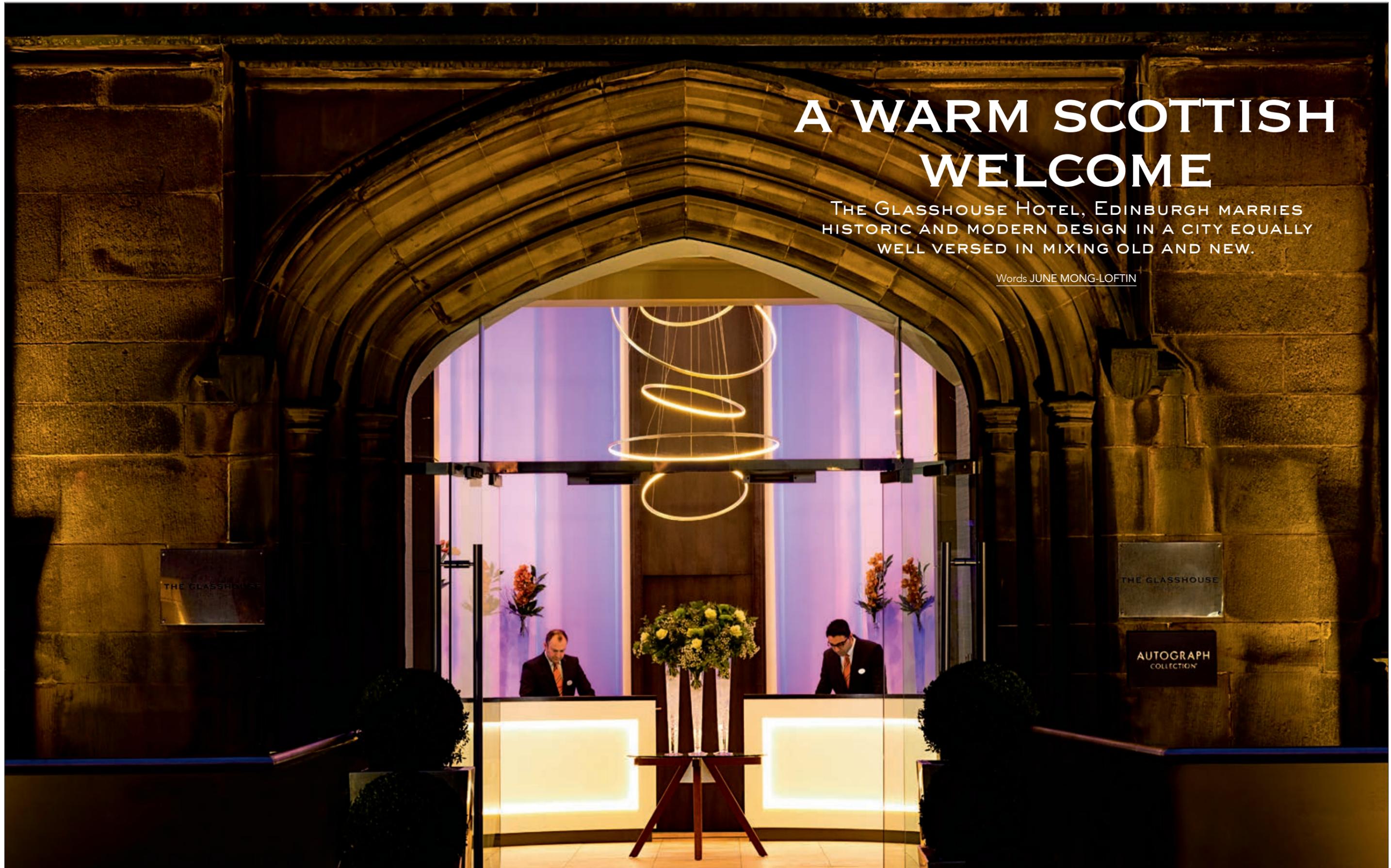
From informal meals in the bar or dome lounge, through to a grand feast in Marco Pierre White's Wheeler's of St. James's Oyster Bar & Grill Room, there is a rigorous focus on good quality British ingredients, and a flair for flavour.

ENJOY TUCKING INTO A TRADITIONAL ENGLISH BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL, THEN POP OUTSIDE, ARMED WITH A MAP FROM YOUR TRUSTY CONCIERGE.

A WARM SCOTTISH WELCOME

THE GLASSHOUSE HOTEL, EDINBURGH MARRIES HISTORIC AND MODERN DESIGN IN A CITY EQUALLY WELL VERSED IN MIXING OLD AND NEW.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



There is no better way to arrive for your stay at The Glasshouse Hotel, Edinburgh, an Autograph Collection Hotel, than by ambling into the historic

Waverley Station on a train. Opened in April 1866, the station still retains the mystique of steam engine locomotives. It's also the only rail station named after works of fiction, the Waverley novels by Sir Walter Scott. The Glasshouse Hotel, Edinburgh is a pleasant walk from the station. It's also conveniently accessible by taxi on a journey that takes you through the Old Town into the elegant New Town, past the memorial to Sir Walter Scott.

Although the hotel is not completely a glass structure, the building makes full use of the material. This fills the property with a lot of natural light and surprising vistas from different vantage points as seen from the rooms, the restaurant and the lush two-acre rooftop garden. There is no better centrally located luxury hotel in the Scottish capital. All the sights of the city are at hand. The Playhouse Theatre is next door, as is great shopping and a fine choice of restaurants offering cuisine from around the world



Guests can now enjoy The Glasshouse's most unique and exclusive feature, their private two-acre garden, thanks to the launch of an unforgettable rooftop picnic experience.

Walk through the hotel's entrance, a 140-year-old stone facade of the chapel founded by Lady Glenorchy, and you will receive a pleasant visual surprise – the high ceilings and the sleek retro décor. To fit the unique layout of the refurbished building, the hotel's 77 rooms vary in shape and size. The interiors of all accommodation types have been refreshed and offer the best in comfort and space.

Reserve one of the Executive Rooms as some of these have large private balconies overlooking the city's rooftops to the Firth of Forth. A guest favourite: the Garden Rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and direct access to the rooftop garden. If you're planning a longer stay, go for one of the Studio Suites. From these accommodation choices, you will discover picturesque Edinburgh city views as seen from spacious balconies or the roof terrace that peers up to the impressive Calton Hill. These suites are named after well-known single malt whiskies. Top tip: enjoy a complimentary dram of a whisky specific to your suite. Do *dheagh shlàinte*, to your health!

For more information, please visit www.theglasshousehotel.co.uk

TO FIT THE UNIQUE LAYOUT OF THE REFRUBISHED BUILDING, THE HOTEL'S 77 ROOMS VARY IN SHAPE AND SIZE.





URBAN CABANA

THE NEW CABANA POOLSIDE ROOMS AT THE RECENTLY RENOVATED JW MARRIOTT KUALA LUMPUR ARE A SLICE OF TROPICAL PARADISE HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF THE CITY.



The new and stylish Cabana Poolside rooms are located on level six.

Words MERRITT GURLEY

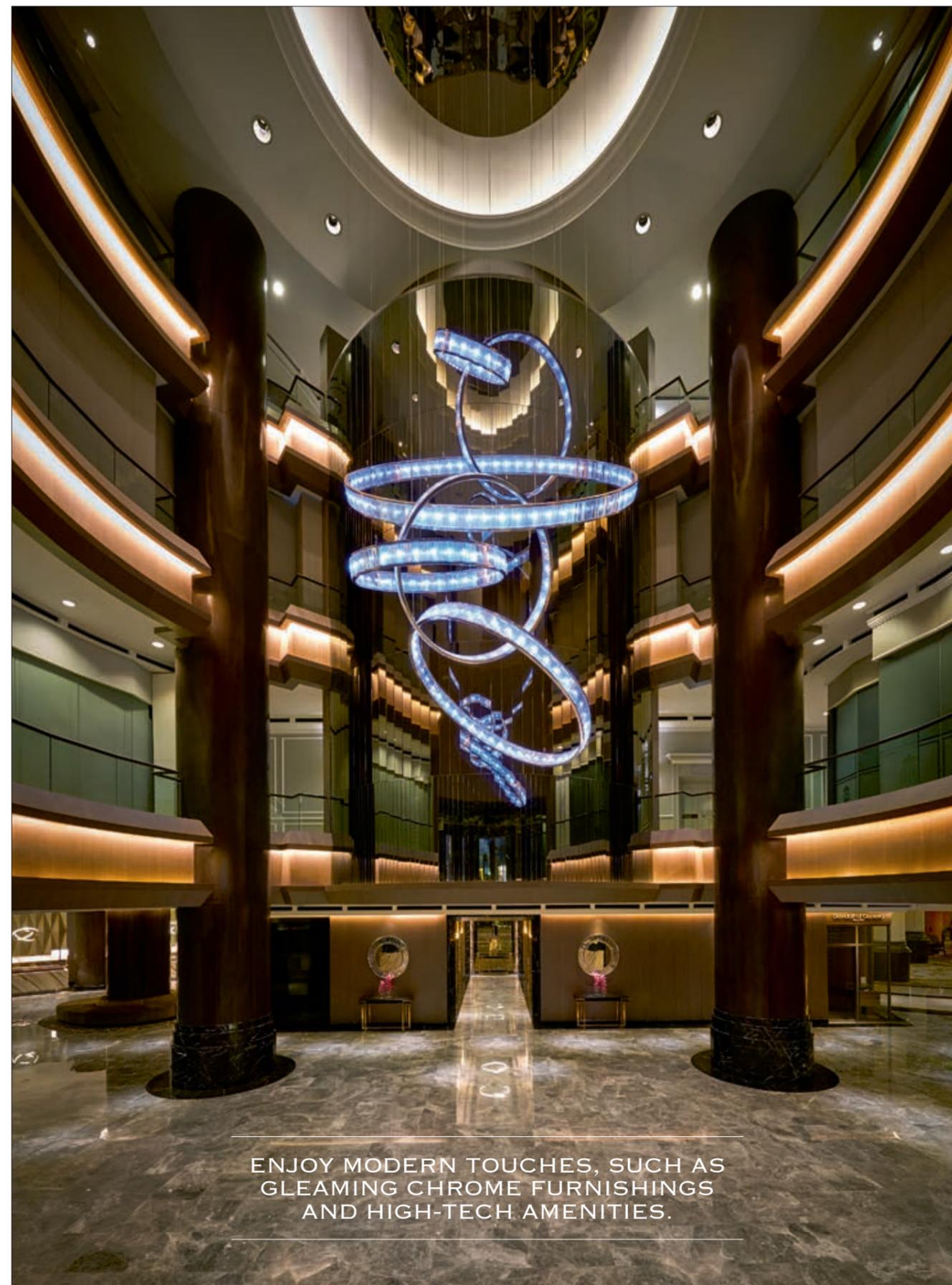
In the buzzy centre of Kuala Lumpur, the JW Marriott's new Cabana Poolside rooms offer a serene oasis set to a different frequency than the buzz of the city, swapping hustle and bustle for rest and relaxation. Many of the additions to the newly renovated property focus on elegance, but the 55 square metre Cabana Poolside rooms are more about laidback luxury. These expansive resort-style suites would be right at home on the sandy shores of a quiet island, and since they open to the turquoise waters of the outdoor swimming pool, the dream of soaking in the sun and cooling off with a refreshing dip beckons from your doorstep.

Also within reach is Starhill Gallery with its enticing collection of restaurants and bars at Feast Village and the shopping heaven of the capital's Golden Triangle, so you can balance tropical bliss with urban glamour. Toast to having it all with an

umbrella drink from the pool bar, which you can sip poolside or from the comfort of your private outdoor terrace. Keep the cocktails flowing in the evening at the JW Executive Lounge (Level 2), where delectable drinks and gourmet snacks are provided throughout the day.

The lounge, the pool area and all of the recreational facilities have been given a fresh coat of polish during the recent renovation so you can enjoy modern touches, such as gleaming chrome furnishings and high-tech amenities, paired with the JW Marriott's timeless commitment to service and hospitality. After a swim, retire to your cabana's spacious bathroom, with marble countertops and double vanity counters, and run a bath. As the deep tub brims with bubbles, relax and soak in the rare indulgence of a little city-centre serenity.

For more information, please visit jwmarriottkualalumpur.com



ENJOY MODERN TOUCHES, SUCH AS
GLEAMING CHROME FURNISHINGS
AND HIGH-TECH AMENITIES.



THE GREAT SLICE



CHEF HIROHASHI NOBUAKI'S KAISEKI SHOWCASE AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KUALA LUMPUR'S THE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS TWO OF JAPAN'S MOST PRIZED EXPORTS - ITS WAGYU AND ITS EQUALLY EXCELLENT SAKE.

Words RENYI LIM



Chef Hirohashi Nobuaki was every inch the perfectionist when he arrived in Malaysia just before his guest stint at The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur. The first thing he did was visit a butchery. He was there to inspect the A5 BMS (Beef Marble Score) 12 Wagyu beef destined for his kaiseki showcase at The Library. This variety of Wagyu originates from Nakanishi Farm in the Miyazaki prefecture, one of Japan's leading breeders and producers.

Chef Hirohashi was keen to give Malaysian diners a taste of the fine dining Wagyu kaiseki that he serves at Ushidoki in Singapore. The four-course dinner demonstrated this enthusiasm. The menu highlighted the flavours, the textures and the colours that explored the full spectrum of the Osaka-born chef's skills, which he perfected over three decades.

The first dish featured slivers of roasted Wagyu top rump served with asparagus. The delicious meat along with a miso vinaigrette and a touch of yuzu stood up well to the robust yet elegant notes of KID Tokubetsu Junmaishu Karakuchi.

A floral and slightly dry KID Junmaishu was paired with the second dish: a portion of shoulder and chuck roll, grilled sparingly so that its magenta-coloured meat remained plump and juicy. The dish was presented with the precision and beauty of an artful Japanese garden. Perched on soya sauce soil, the Wagyu came with a potato croquette coated with dried seaweed, fritters of edamame and sweetcorn, and several Japanese maple leaves.

Next was a rich, unctuous bowl brimming with braised Wagyu, sweet sukiyaki sauce, black truffles, piquant mitsuba, steamed white rice and a half-boiled egg. The dish paired beautifully with a chilled glass of fruity KID Daiginjo.

Rounding off his tribute to Japanese produce, The Library's Dinner Series' first Japanese guest chef presented an intriguing dessert of olive oil ice cream with curds made from Wagyu cattle milk, salt flakes, and delicate slices of summer truffles. The ripe Tsuruume Kanjukuume plum wine was a fine complement to this sweet treat.

For more information, please visit ritzcarlton.com/kualalumpur



CHEF HIROHASHI WAS KEEN TO GIVE MALAYSIAN DINERS A TASTE OF THE FINE DINING WAGYU KAISEKI THAT HE SERVES AT USHIDOKI IN SINGAPORE.



The flavours, textures and colours of the delicate Wagyu kaiseki cuisine were augmented by the illustrious range of KID sake.



READY TO MARKET

THE RITZ-CARLTON, KOH SAMUI'S BAAN TALAT IS A VERITABLE FIESTA THAT RECALLS THE DELICIOUS FLAVOURS OF THAI STREET FOOD.

Words KENNETH TAN

Restaurants at this Koh Samui resort mirror the island's offerings: chilli-spiked southern cuisine, bustling food markets and an impressive bounty of local ingredients.

On Koh Samui's north-eastern shores, one finds the latest five-star addition to the idyllic island, The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui. It carries the distinction of being the largest resort on Koh Samui, stretching expansively across 58 acres of oceanfront real estate.

A total of 175 suites and pool villas as well as the 3,800-square-metre Spa Village Koh Samui are the most visible signs of a vacation about to take place. However, a hidden gem of this resort lies within its culinary offerings. These are artful combinations of Thailand's piquant flavours with some of the freshest and best produce.

On Saturdays, as the fiery sun dips into the horizon, the resort's sea-facing terrace takes on a festive air. Around pitched-roof gazebos and amidst the swaying coconut palms, Baan Talat

('market house' in Thai) – a weekly event at the resort – springs to life with pushcarts of hawker stalls, each a representation of a particular style of Thai street cuisine.

Grab a seat on communal or private tables, and settle in for an evening of feasting. A nearby speaker plays folksy upbeat Thai music. You sense an authentic vibe of dining by the street. The air is filled with scents from boiling pots of broth and frying food. You will want to whet your appetite with a fresh coconut, before segueing into the array of salad options; som tum, spicy beef, chicken feet and salmon.

The tantalising and ever-popular meats on sticks will catch your attention soon enough. Take your pick of grilled chicken, shrimp, vegetables and deep-fried chicken wings, pork and beef. The drinks stall offers libations in the form of the ubiquitous Thai beers – Chang and Singha – as



The energetic, market-style atmosphere of Baan Talat is the perfect setting for a menu of Thai street food favourites.



well as red, white and sparkling wines. Also on the list are Sato, a Thai rice-based wine and Mekhong spirit. The latter is a rum-like drink distilled from molasses resulting in a copper-coloured sensation of spicy ginger, toffee and citrus notes.

As you indulge in this unbeatable street food spread, traditional Thai dancers in full regalia provide entertainment, recreating the Ramayana epic featuring the Hindu deity Hanuman.

A nearby arts and crafts stall enhances the market scene experience, albeit on a much more elevated ambience. You could ostensibly emerge from the enjoyable dinner with a self-portrait drawn by the resort's resident artist, mementoes and a profound appreciation for Thailand's rich tastes, all of which you would have had at Baan Talat.

For more information please visit ritzcarlton.com/kohsamui



GONE FISHING

PANGKOR LAUT RESORT'S CHEF'S KITCHEN EXPERIENCE IS AN AUTHENTIC WAY OF GETTING TO KNOW ISLAND LIFE AND TASTE THE AREA'S MEMORABLE CUISINE.

The Straits of Malacca has, for centuries, been famous as one of the world's most traversed waterways, where the collection of islands including Pangkor and Pangkor Laut had offered rough weather sanctuary for fisherman and merchants. For guests at Pangkor Laut Resort wishing to explore the local area, the Chef's Kitchen Experience is an enjoyable way to spend a morning.

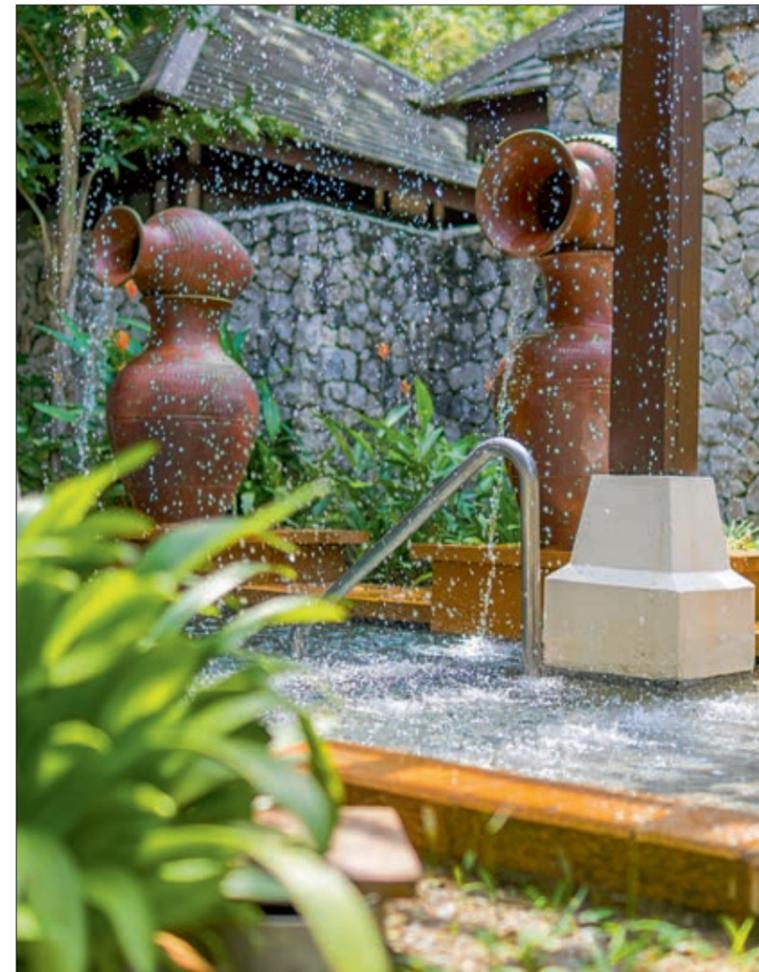
Begin with a 15-minute speedboat ride to Pangkor Island, home to a 25,000-strong multi-ethnic community. Join the resort's Chef Arasu as he guides you through the island where he grew up. Amble through shops selling all varieties of dried seafood, some in snack form, others made to flavour soups and curries. Fishermen who trade briskly as producers of dried anchovies populate Pangkor Island. It's a delicacy popular in Asian cuisine. Learn from Chef Arasu where Pangkor Laut Resort sources its seafood, which arrives everyday in the early morning. Explore Pangkor Island on foot, taking in bustling market scenes, and food stalls selling freshly prepared Chinese-style noodles and tasty Malay cuisine. Then, take off by speedboat once again to a nearby fish farm. Take your chance at snagging the catch of the day.



EXPLORE PANGKOR ISLAND ON FOOT, TAKING IN BUSTLING MARKET SCENES, AND FOOD STALLS SELLING FRESHLY PREPARED CHINESE-STYLE NOODLES AND TASTY MALAY CUISINE.



Learn the culinary secrets of Pangkor Laut Resort's skilled chefs and delve into an extensive knowledge of exotic Asian herbs, spices and recipes with The Chef's Kitchen Experience, which includes a Signature Bath House Experience at Spa Village.



Soon it's time to return to the resort for your cooking class. You will learn the finer arts of preparing delicacies such as ikan bakar – grilled fish; or soto ayam – spicy chicken soup; and ayam rendang – chicken curry. The menu of the day would, of course, depend on whether you brought any fish back with you.

Discover tips and tricks on how to flesh out authentic aromas and flavours. You will learn the correct techniques of sautéing spices ground on-site such as fennel, coriander, cumin, and star anise. Bring to boil rich-tasting chicken soup, and curries prepared with recipes specific to Perak, the state where the resort is located. Find out the precise amount of coconut milk to add that blends harmoniously with bubbling spices and tender meat, creating a curry dish you'd definitely want a second (or a third) serving of.

After enjoying lunch, it's time to take to the waters at Spa Village Pangkor Laut's Bathhouse Experience. Start with an ancient feudal Chinese foot-pounding massage, followed by dips in the serene Malay baths; a Japanese 'goshi-goshi' cleansing and a soak in the Rotenburu pool; and a Shanghai Scrub that leaves skin smooth and soft. The experience completes with the serving of a calming serving of hot herbal tea, a tranquil cap to a productive and fun-filled morning.

For more information, please visit www.pangkorlautresort.com

SUNSET CRUISING

OVERLOOKING THE BANKS OF THE MALACCA RIVER, THE MAJESTIC MALACCA OFFERS FRONT-ROW SEATS TO A WATERWAY THAT WAS ONCE THE LIFEBLOOD OF MALAYA.

Words MERRITT GURLEY



THE MELAKA RIVER CRUISE
TAKES IN THE CITY'S MONUMENTS
ALONG WITH A FEW OF ITS
MODERN MARVELS.



The Majestic Malacca provides a glimpse into the splendid saga of extraordinary empires.

During the 15th century, when the Malacca Sultanate was in its heyday, the river that snakes through the city was a bustling trading route. Chinese junks and proud sailboats plied the waters from the Straits of Malacca inland to the foothills of the western coast, loaded with spices and exotic wares from across the world.

Today, a trip down this regal river offers a window into the golden age of empires from distant times. The Melaka River Cruise is a 45-minute sail that takes in the city's monuments along with a few of its modern marvels in a float-by sampling of its Oriental-meets-occidental culture. Along the way you'll see the Church of St Francis Xavier, built in 1856, with the iconic neo-Gothic architecture of the Portuguese era. You'll pass Kampung Morten, the oldest traditional Malay village in the country. It was declared a heritage site in 1989 and is now a living museum that showcases the stilted wooden homes, handicrafts and culture of Malaysia's yesteryear. You'll also glide by the colourful markets of Chinatown's Jonker Street, the red-walled Stadthuys building from the days of Dutch rule, and under many beautiful bridges, old and new. There are dozens of significant sites lining the banks and in less than an hour you'll get a real taste of the port city's storied history, with English, Malay, Dutch, Arab, Portuguese, Indian and Chinese influences all shining vividly through the city's vibrant tapestry.

Once the tour comes to an end, you can return to The Majestic Malacca, viewing the beautifully restored mansion in richer context, informed by your journey down the ancient river. You'll spot nuances of the British Straits Settlement style along with nods to Chinese heritage woven through the architecture and furnishings of this elegant grand dame. As the sun melts into the horizon, settle into a plush seat at the mansion's cosy bar and sip gin and tonics that are almost as flavourful as the city itself.

For more information please visit
www.majesticmalacca.com



Above: a walk through Malacca will transport anyone back to the golden age of this colonial town that served as a link for East and West all those centuries ago.
Below: Gin O'Clock at The Majestic Malacca invites guests to play the part of a worldly mixologist and try their hand at mixing their own gin-based cocktails.



PEACE OF THE PAST

BALANCE AND CALM CAN BE HARD TO ACHIEVE IN THE MODERN WORLD, BUT THE SERENE SETTING AT SPA VILLAGE TANJONG JARA WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO A TIME WHEN THE MALAY CULTURE WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS RESTORATIVE RITUALS.

Words MERRITT GURLEY

TRY THE ASAM ROSELLE BODY TREATMENT,
WHICH USES THE HEALING PROPERTIES OF
THE ROSELLE FLOWER TO GIVE THE SKIN A
BOOST.

The ancient Malay philosophy of *sucimurni* is all about achieving total relaxation through a holistic exploration of peace and purity. At Spa Village Tanjong Jara, guests are invited to live the *sucimurni* lifestyle, striking a harmony between the inner self and the surrounding environment.

The experience begins with awakening the five senses. Lush landscaping and stately architecture inspired by grand 17th-century Malay palaces provide a feast for the eyes, while a potpourri called *bunga rampai*, made from freshly picked pandanus leaves and local fragrant flowers, such as jasmine, fills the air with a restorative bouquet of scents. Healthy food bursting with fresh ingredients will delight your palate, while the lulling sounds of nature provide the ultimate soundtrack. And when it comes to holistic therapies, there are plenty to choose from.

The treatments at Spa Village Tanjong Jara take a leaf from wisdom spanning 1,000 years to bring the body to a state of perfect bliss. Some of the

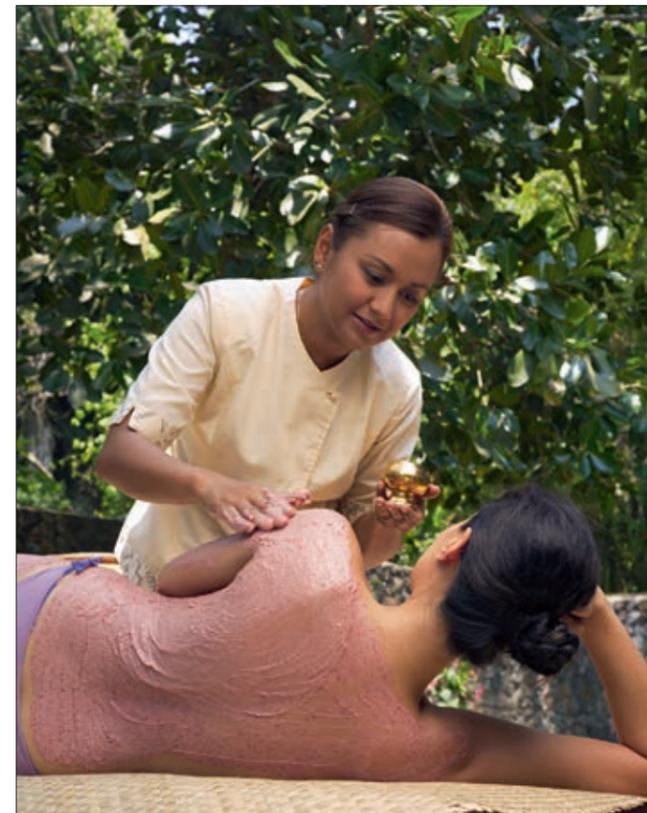
techniques date back to the era of the Malacca Sultanate when Malay, Arab, Indian and Chinese influences blended in therapies that are truly transformative. The spa chambers are woven throughout a lovely complex of gardens and pools, creating a tranquil ambiance befitting the experience. Try the Asam Roselle body treatment, which uses the healing properties of the roselle flower to give the skin a boost in vitamin C, fruit acids, calcium, iron, potassium and anthocyanin. The mix of vitamins and minerals helps your body form natural collagen, resulting in clearer, healthier and younger-looking skin. A soothing massage, which uses roselle oil to relax your muscles and rejuvenate your body, is followed by a roselle cream exfoliant scrub, which sloughs away dead cells to reveal smooth, glowing skin. End the treatment with the anti-oxidising power of roselle tea.

Drink in the warmth and enjoy the quiet. There is room in this high-tech life for a peace of the past.

For more information please visit www.tanjongjararesort.com



The philosophy of *sucimurni* emphasises purity of spirit, health and well-being. The award-winning Spa Village Tanjong Jara is a sanctuary anchored in this ancient Malay way of life.



BORNEAN REPASTS

THE NORTH BORNEO STRAITS TIFFIN DINING EXPERIENCE AT GAYA ISLAND RESORT SERVES MALAYSIAN FARE WITH A SIDE OF NOSTALGIA.

Words ELAINE LAU

After a day of revelling in the sun, sand and sea, retreat to your villa at Gaya Island Resort and have dinner brought to you. For a one-of-a-kind meal, guests may select North Borneo Straits Tiffin, one of the resort's specially crafted experiences. This in-villa dining service harks to colonial times, when the use of the tiffin carrier was ubiquitous for its convenience in storing and carrying food.

North Borneo Straits Tiffin features authentic Malaysian cuisine accompanied by an after-dinner literary treat to savour well into the night: a copy of *Land Below the Wind*, Agnes Newton Keith's delightful 1939 memoir of her time in Sabah, then known as North Borneo.

At my villa's balcony, a private dining table is set up, complete with white tablecloth and gold-stemmed silverware that glimmers in soft candlelight. Dinner is a delicious nine-course affair, with four dishes served from an elegant ceramic and bronze tiffin carrier.

For starters, there are two varieties of soup: chicken simmered in ginger and local rice wine, and a savoury broth with freshly made fish balls. I also nibble on succulent chicken skewers dunked in peanut sauce. The stir-fried vegetable ferns with prawns and dried anchovies give a burst of umami, while the four-angled beans dish is

prepared Chinese-style with mushrooms and hoisin sauce. Grilled lamb and fried fish with tangy tomato sauce complete this savoury spread. The dessert of tender tapioca cubes cooked in sweet coconut milk makes a satisfying cap to the meal.

For the rest of the evening, I bury my nose in Keith's vivid and humorous account of her time in Sabah. Evident in her sparkling prose is how much she came to love her adopted land and its gracious people.

For more information, please visit www.gayaislandresort.com

AT MY VILLA'S BALCONY, A PRIVATE DINING TABLE IS SET UP, COMPLETE WITH GOLD-STEMMED SILVERWARE THAT GLIMMERS IN SOFT CANDLELIGHT.

NISEKO: THE JOURNEY AND THE DESTINATION

THE ART OF EMI SHIRATORI GIVES
HOKKAIDO'S NATURAL LANDSCAPES GREATER
MEANING AND BEAUTY.

Words MERRITT GURLEY





Emi Shiratori believes that through art, the traveller is able to appreciate the journey in a more significant way.

At The Green Leaf Niseko Village, Emi Shiratori has created works that celebrate nature. Melding and moulding themes and visual currents, her art inspires conversations. She speaks to *YTL Life* about her art pieces and how they welcome and engage each guest.

Can you tell me a bit about your background and how you started as an artist?

Since I was a child, I loved not only playing outdoors, but also always having my little notebook with me for sketches. I also enjoyed reading fantasy stories, and creating these stories in my imagination. I think the first time I got in touch with the arts was when I learned ballet, and from that time onwards I had a deep interest in anything to do with fine arts. I decided to learn graphic and product design at the Hokkaido School of Fine Arts. Developing gradually over the following years, I collaborated through my artworks for many projects, from concert flyers, album jackets, designs for event invitations, live painting, to product designs and also holding my art exhibitions. Currently, my artworks are being exhibited at several art fairs throughout the world.

How did the idea come up to add your creations to The Green Leaf Niseko Village?

My artwork and products are displayed in Hilton Niseko Village. It was then that the art director in charge of The Green Leaf Niseko Village renovations noticed my work, and

I received the offer to collaborate on the project as a local Hokkaido artist.

What inspires your artwork?

I am aiming to reflect the natural beauty of Hokkaido and that is also what I would like guests to feel. For the key visual, the animals of Hokkaido inspired me. I included them into my art style, intertwining them with organic patterns that reflect the area's abundance of nature.

How does art help in creating a luxury travel experience?

The pleasures of the luxury travel experience exist in the small things and special moments that make up the trip. For example, when opening a door, guests should be welcomed by an elegant and sophisticated space that is different from normal daily life, a space that transports them from the norm.

How do you think art, travel and hospitality work together?

I believe that there are several travel styles and demands of travel experiences. For example, travelling the world for snowboarding, skiing and art. I feel that through art, the traveller is able to experience the journey in a more significant way. Art speaks more than a thousand words, so this is how I hope art, travel and hospitality will further work closely together to enrich one's travel experiences.

For more information, please visit www.thegreenleafhotel.com



“FOR THE KEY VISUAL, THE ANIMALS OF HOKKAIDO INSPIRED ME. I INCLUDED THEM INTO MY ART STYLE, INTERTWINING THEM WITH ORGANIC PATTERNS THAT REFLECT THE AREA’S ABUNDANCE OF NATURE.”





STEPPING THROUGH TIME

HERITAGE AND HIGH FASHION INTERTWINES DRAMATICALLY IN ONE OF THE MALAYSIAN CAPITAL'S MOST ELEGANT SETTINGS, THE MAJESTIC HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR, FEATURING ONE-OF-A-KIND CREATIONS BY SOME OF MALAYSIA'S TOP AVANT-GARDE DESIGN TALENTS.

PHOTOGRAPHY LOCK CHEE WEI
LOCATION THE MAJESTIC HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR
STYLING MAX MAK

Bustier; long red skirt by
Melinda Looi



Crop top; flared skirt
by Melinda Looi



See-through gown by *Celest Thoi*



Printed dress by *Melinda Looi*



Bustier; fish tail skirt by
Melinda Looi

Model: Lee Ming Chiang
Make-up: Deidre Chong
Hair stylist: Dylan Boon



Bustier, layered skirt
by Melinda Looi

SPA GLAMPING

A NEW SPA AT MUSE SAINT TROPEZ IS SET WITHIN A LUXURY SAFARI TENT WITH AL FRESCO TREATMENT ROOMS, SO GUESTS CAN ENJOY THE LUXURY SPA VILLAGE EXPERIENCE AMID THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF PROVENCE.

LA TENTE BY SPA VILLAGE IS A SET WITHIN AN OPEN-AIR LUXURY SAFARI TENT, ELEGANTLY APPOINTED IN CREAM AND RICH-TONED WOOD THAT SOOTHE THE EYE AND CALM THE MIND.



La Tente by Spa Village is serenely tucked away in the gardens of MUSE Saint Tropez.

Words MERRITT GURLEY

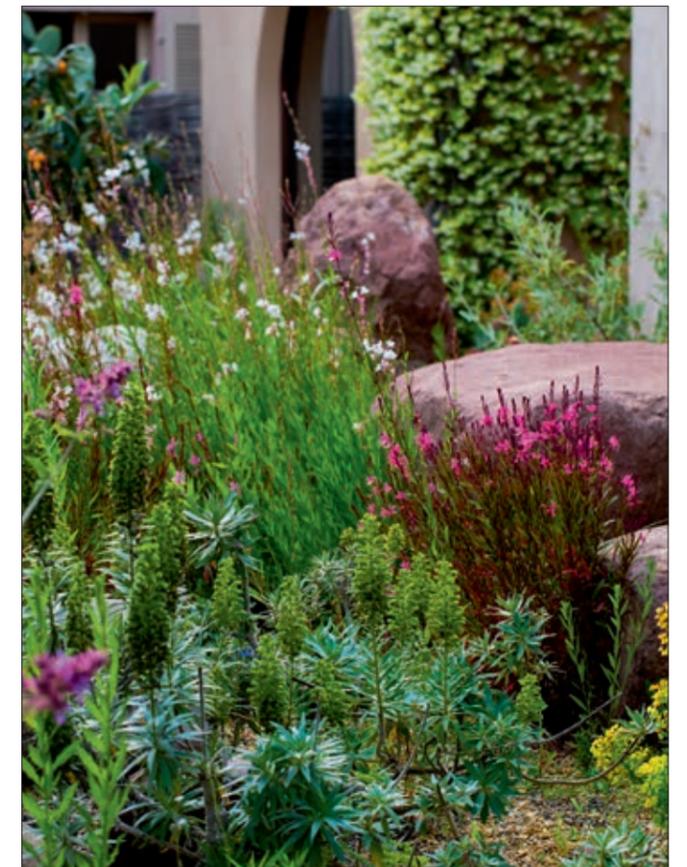
The sheer beauty of the French Riviera is a salve for the body and soul, and provided ample inspiration for the new spa at MUSE Saint Tropez, which is dedicated to bringing the restorative power of the landscape into innovative treatments that nourish and replenish.

La Tente by Spa Village is a set within an open-air luxury safari tent, elegantly appointed in cream and rich-toned wood that soothe the eye and calm the mind. Inside you'll find a fully netted open-air reception area with two treatment rooms, and two outdoor garden showers and relaxation areas.

The safari tent is surrounded by cypress and olive

trees that lend their shade and sweet fragrance to each spa experience. The delicate scents of the local flora are an ambient introduction to treatments that usher in indigenous ingredients from across Provence at every turn. Many of the massages incorporate plants, flowers and spices plucked right from the onsite garden. Freshly harvested herbs have been shown to have stronger curative benefits than their preserved or manufactured counterparts, so the garden-to-massage-table experience is unparalleled.

For a muscle-deep lesson in relaxation, try The Pablo, one of the signature experiences at La Tente by Spa Village, which uses steamed poultice pouches packed with Provençal herbs





A true feast for the senses, La Tente by Spa Village offers a full range of indulgent treatments.

LUXURY AND PRIVACY ARE PAIRED WITH THE LIBERATING SENSATION OF BEING IN THE OPEN AIR, ENVELOPED BY THE LANDSCAPE.



that blend in harmony with the MUSE signature aromatherapy to release all tension.

At La Tente, nature and nurture come together in splendid accord. Luxury and privacy are paired with the liberating sensation of being in the open air, enveloped by the landscape. In the gentle warmth of the French Riviera sun, the light bouquet of cypress in air, the herbal steam of the poultice melting your worries away, you may find yourself thinking: "only in Provence".

For more information, please visit www.muse-hotels.com



DISCOVERING BRISBANE

QUEENSLAND'S CAPITAL LAYS CLAIM TO INNUMERABLE ATTRACTIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE WITHIN EASY REACH OF THE BRISBANE MARRIOTT HOTEL.

Words M. WILSON



HOTEL AMENITIES INCLUDE A MODERN FITNESS CENTRE, AN UNDERCOVER POOL WITH VIEWS OF THE RIVER AND KANGAROO POINT CLIFFS, AND A DAY SPA.

The Brisbane Marriott Hotel enjoys an outstanding location in the heart of the city, nestled between the Central Business District and the vibrant hub of Fortitude Valley, within easy reach of chic shopping, riverside dining and the cultural heart of Brisbane. Guests can step straight out and onto the riverside promenade that leads all the way to the City Botanic Gardens.

All guestrooms and suites capture stunning views of the city skyline or the Brisbane River with the impressive Story Bridge. Spacious rooms feature comfortable beds as well as state-of-the-art technology. Hotel amenities include a modern fitness centre, an undercover pool with views of the river and Kangaroo Point cliffs, and a day spa.

Brisbane is a modern, vibrant city with a sunny, sub-tropical climate and unsurpassed natural beauty. With the Brisbane Marriott as your base, there is much to see and do nearby. Feel free to ask the Concierge for recommendations.

Within walking distance you could while away a few hours at the fabulous Queen Street Mall, with more than 700 stores to explore. If you're feeling more adventurous, climb the city's most iconic structure, Story Bridge, and experience a unique perspective of the city and its surroundings.

Across the river, South Bank is Brisbane's premier lifestyle and cultural destination. Located on the southern banks of the Brisbane River, its 17 hectares of lush parklands, world-class eateries, stunning river views and hundreds of delightful events all year round make it the perfect place to relax and unwind.

Brisbane's largest concentration of award-winning fine dining restaurants lies along the Eagle Street Pier riverfront. Find a riverfront bar, restaurant or café and pull up a seat. It's where Brisbane's celebrities hang out. You'll be spoilt for choice.

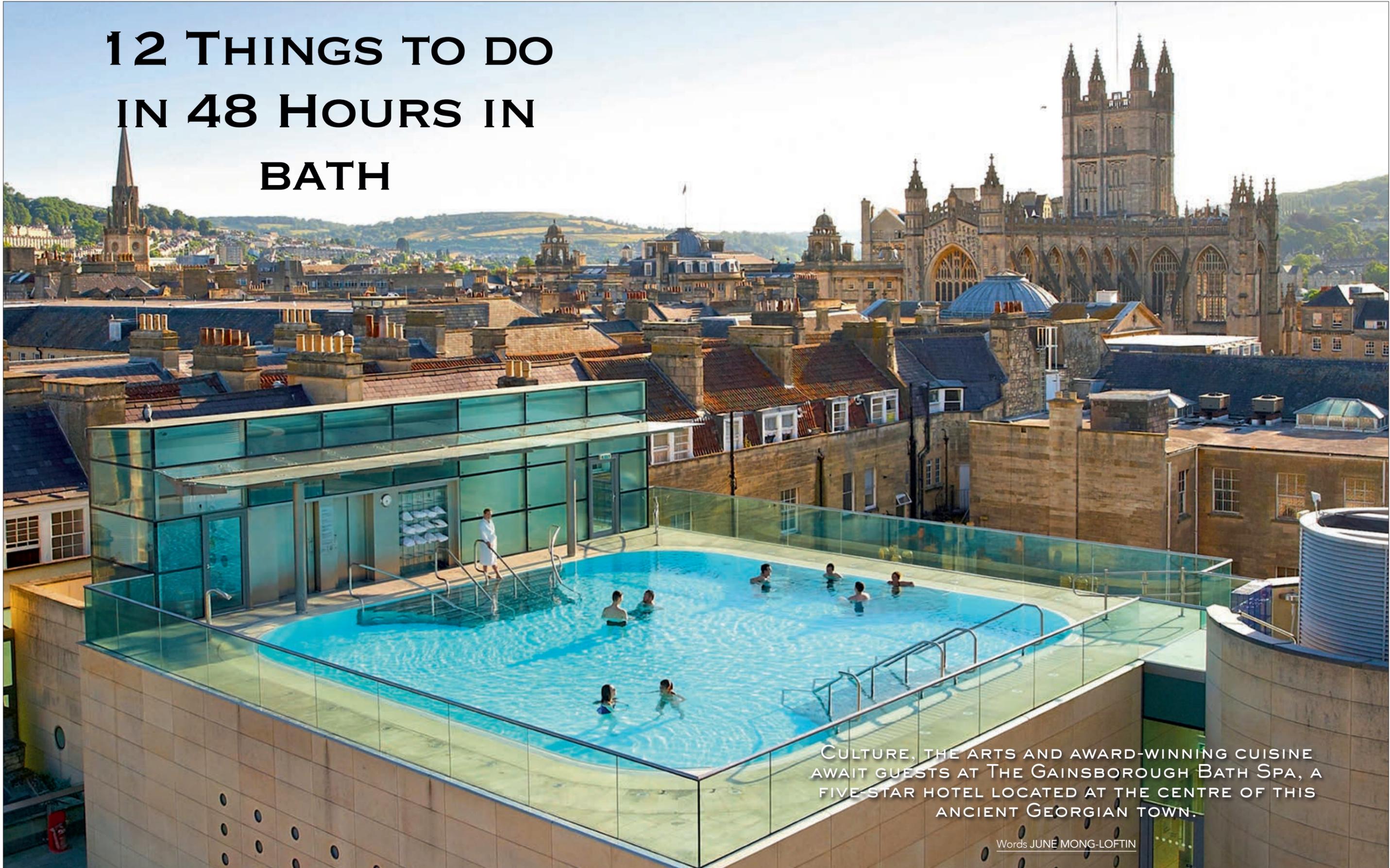
For more information, visit marriott.com.au



The Brisbane Marriott Hotel is conveniently located where everyone wants to be – in the centre of town, but also within striking distance of chic shopping, riverside bars and dining, markets, art galleries, nightlife and the financial heart of Brisbane.



12 THINGS TO DO IN 48 HOURS IN BATH



CULTURE, THE ARTS AND AWARD-WINNING CUISINE AWAIT GUESTS AT THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA, A FIVE-STAR HOTEL LOCATED AT THE CENTRE OF THIS ANCIENT GEORGIAN TOWN.

Words JUNE MONG-LOFTIN



Enjoy Bath's rich history, brought to life by personalities such as Chef Dan Moon and via its natural thermal waters.

8.30AM You've arrived in Bath, the most elegant Georgian town in England with the lush Somerset countryside just beyond. Start your day right with the buttermilk pancakes at Dan Moon at The Gainsborough Restaurant.

9.30AM Walk off your breakfast on the Skyline walk, a well-marked circular trail with fabulous views of Bath. Take in an 18th-century landscaped garden with elegant and eccentric follies, and stroll through lovely, peaceful woodland. To fend off hunger, set off armed with a Sally Lunn bun.

1.00PM Finish your walk-with-a-view by lunching under Corinthian columns, a glittering chandelier and spa fountain at The Pump Room. It is adjacent to the Thermal Roman Baths, and embodies what was once the heart of the Georgian social scene.

3.30PM The Thermae Bath Spa is next to The Gainsborough Bath Spa. Indulge in the signature treatment, the watsu. A therapist gently supports, stretches and guides your body through a series of flowing movements in the warm, mineral-rich waters of the historic hot bath. Soon, the meaning of 'uplifting' is redefined.



YOU'VE ARRIVED IN BATH, THE MOST ELEGANT
GEORGIAN TOWN IN ENGLAND WITH THE LUSH
SOMERSET COUNTRYSIDE JUST BEYOND.



CONTINUE YOUR DAY OF WELL-BEING BY JOINING THE GAINSBOROUGH BATH SPA'S YOGA IN THE CHAPEL THIS AFTERNOON.

5.00PM Continue your day of well-being by joining The Gainsborough Bath Spa's Yoga in The Chapel this afternoon. This 60-minute treat takes place in a former hospital chapel with soaring ceilings where light streams through the large glass windows.

7.00PM Pop into The Gainsborough Bar and take a seat by the windows overlooking the Spa Village Bath before ordering from a tempting menu of gin cocktails. The Gin Joint – composed of fresh ginger, apple liqueur and Tanqueray No. 10 gin mixed with lemon fizz – makes for a cool and refreshing tippie.

7.30PM Complete your evening with the exquisite six-course Tasting Menu at Dan Moon at The Gainsborough. The talented West Country chef has earned three AA rosettes and has been mentioned in the *Tatler Food Guide*. Highly recommended: the Wine Flight that deftly pairs a 2016 Italian rosé from Marche with a Roast Plum Tomato Soup; and the Roast Creedy Carver Duck breast and plum sauce with a Spanish Gran Duca y Gran Reserve 2010.

From top:
Dan Moon At The Gainsborough; The Gainsborough Bar.
Facing page:
exterior of The Gainsborough Bath Spa.





From above:
The Royal Crescent in Bath, Somerset; Hare & Hounds.
Facing page, from top:
Canvas Room; Little Theatre Picturehouse Cinema.



10.15AM Join the morning 30-minute tai chi session on The Chapel Terrace to begin the morning energised.

11.30AM Take in a morning of culture in Bath by starting with the Roman Baths Museum, then pop over to immerse yourself in 7,000 years of history and beautiful objets d'art at the Museum of East Asian Art. Top tip: save some time for the American Museum in Britain. It's the only museum of American folk and decorative art that's located outside America.

1.30PM Lunch outdoors at the Hare & Hounds – weather permitting, grab a table on the terrace or garden. If you have an appetite for British or Mediterranean cuisine, there's the slightly more formal Clayton's Kitchen at the Porter.

**JOIN THE MORNING
30-MINUTE TAI CHI SESSION
ON THE CHAPEL TERRACE
TO BEGIN THE MORNING
ENERGISED.**



3.30PM Savour memorable afternoon tea delights at The Gainsborough Bath Spa's Canvas Room. Chef Dan Moon's special scones elevate this British tea time staple – the special recipe lists yogurt as an ingredient. Equally delicious are the sublime cakes and tasty sandwiches made using bread from Bath's best bakers.

9.00PM If you still have the legs for it, check out what is showing at the Little Theatre Picturehouse Cinema, which is just a short walk from The Gainsborough Bath Spa.

For more information, please visit
www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk



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www.gaya-islandresort.com

This luxurious resort is set on a private tropical island on the Straits of Malacca. Villas either fringe the hillside or are gracefully balanced on stilts over water. An award-winning Spa Village offers world-class treatments derived from Chinese, Indian and Malay healing traditions.
www.pangkorlautresort.com

Tanjong Jara Resort on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia embodies the essence of Malay culture and traditions. Facing the South China Sea and surrounded by the lush green beauty of the local countryside, Tanjong Jara Resort reveals a quieter but equally attractive side to Malaysia.
www.tanjongjararesort.com

Evoking the splendour, the romance and the nostalgia of one of Malaysia's oldest hill stations and its grand colonial heritage, Cameron Highlands Resort with its luxurious rooms and award-winning Spa Village is the best place to take in the area's rolling hills, tea plantations, rose gardens and strawberry farms.
www.cameronhighlandsresort.com



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KOH SAMUI



THE RITZ-CARLTON

KUALA LUMPUR

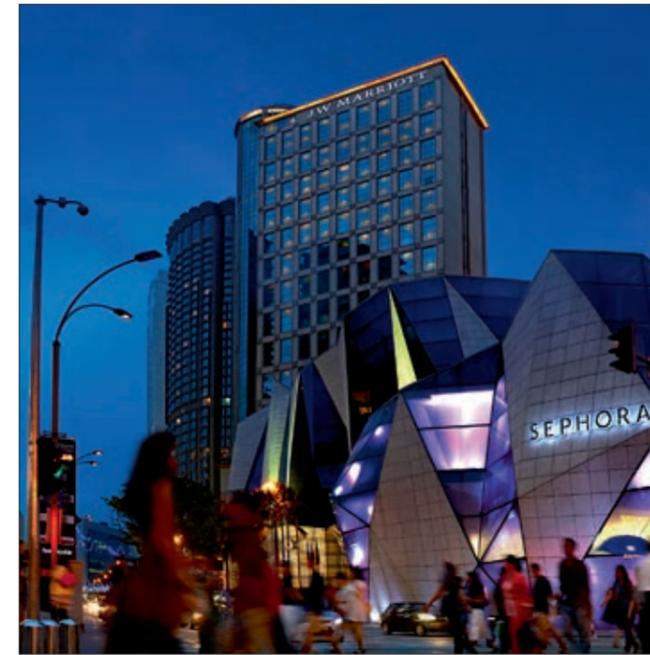
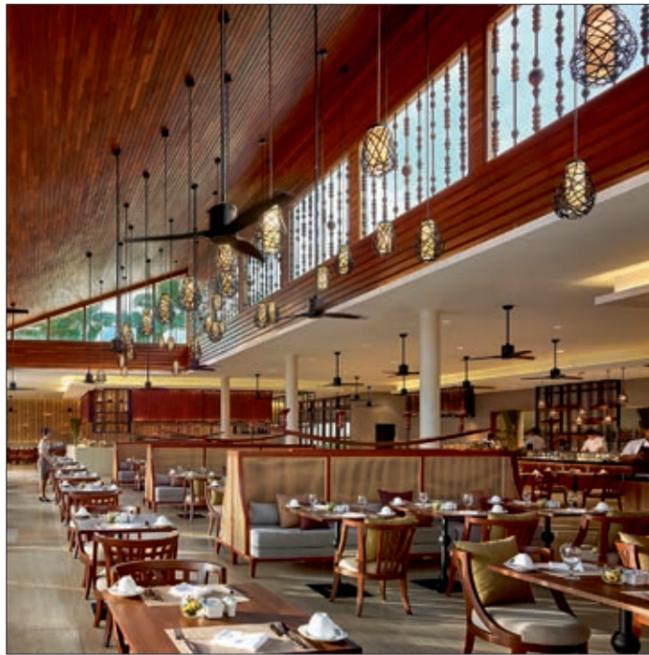


JW MARRIOTT

KUALA LUMPUR

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KUALA LUMPUR

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTIONSM
HOTELS



Nestled within the embrace of a private sun-kissed bay, The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui is surrounded by oceanfront beauty and quintessential experiences that artfully reflect the Samui way of life. This makes the beautiful property an ideal setting to embark on wellness programmes, cultural immersions or culinary journeys.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KOHSAMUI

Located in Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle business district, this stylish luxury hotel is conveniently positioned for upscale shopping, dining and entertainment. It is home to an award-winning spa, and gourmands will be delighted by the indulgent Afternoon Tea experience as well as Li Yen's stellar Cantonese cuisine.

RITZCARLTON.COM/KUALALUMPUR

Located along Bukit Bintang Road at the heart of Kuala Lumpur, JW Marriott is ideal for business and leisure travellers. With world-class shopping malls nearby, this conveniently located hotel with its extensive range of facilities is one of the city's finest.

JWMARRIOTTKUALALUMPUR.COM

HotelStripes is the second Autograph Collection hotel in Malaysia. It combines a modern vibe and historical references to its location, one of Kuala Lumpur's oldest neighbourhoods. With contemporary guestrooms and suites, the hotel is a convenient base to explore the Malaysian capital's many attractions.

WWW.STRIPESKL.COM

THE SURIN

PHUKET



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WWW.THESURINPHUKET.COM

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WWW.SPAVILLAGERESORT.COM/TEMBOKBALI



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WWW.MAJESTICMALACCA.COM

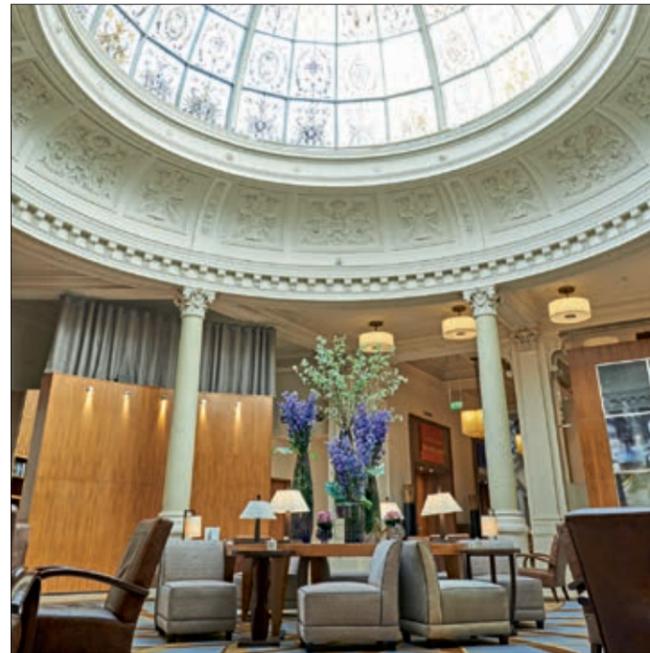
FULLY RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY, THIS ELEGANT 1930S PROPERTY MARRIES HISTORY WITH WORLD-CLASS HOSPITALITY. DINING OPTIONS INCLUDE HAINANESE FAVOURITES AT COLONIAL CAFÉ AS WELL AS AN INTERACTIVE DINING EXPERIENCE AT CONTANGO, WHILE THE ROOMS ARE A BLEND OF CONTEMPORARY STYLE AND OLD-WORLD FINESSE.

WWW.MAJESTICKL.COM

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EDINBURGH

THREADNEEDLES
LONDON

THE ACADEMY
LONDON



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THIS FORMER VICTORIAN BANK HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A DISCREET, BOUTIQUE-STYLE HOTEL, CROWNED BY AN ELEGANT STAINED GLASS DOME, AN UNEXPECTED FIND IN THE CITY'S HEART. THE HOTEL EXUDES GRANDEUR IN A THOROUGHLY MODERN WAY, WHILE SERVICE IS POLISHED; IT'S ALSO UNPRETENTIOUS AMID THE BUSTLE OF SQUARE MILE.

SITUATED IN BLOOMSBURY, THE ACADEMY HOTEL LONDON COMPRISES A COLLECTION OF FIVE GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES COMBINED INTO ONE CHARMING LUXURY HOTEL. THIS REJUVENATED 50-GUESTROOM/SUITE BOUTIQUE HOTEL JUXTAPOSES TIMELESS GLAMOUR AND A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON TOWNHOUSE LIVING.

MONKEY ISLAND ESTATE IS LOCATED ON A PICTURESQUE ISLAND IN THE RIVER THAMES IN THE HISTORIC VILLAGE OF BRAY, BERKSHIRE. SET ACROSS SEVEN ACRES, THE PROPERTY FEATURES 41 EXQUISITE ROOMS DESIGNED BY THE AWARD-WINNING NEW YORK-BASED CHAMPALIMAUD DESIGN AS WELL AS SIX PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

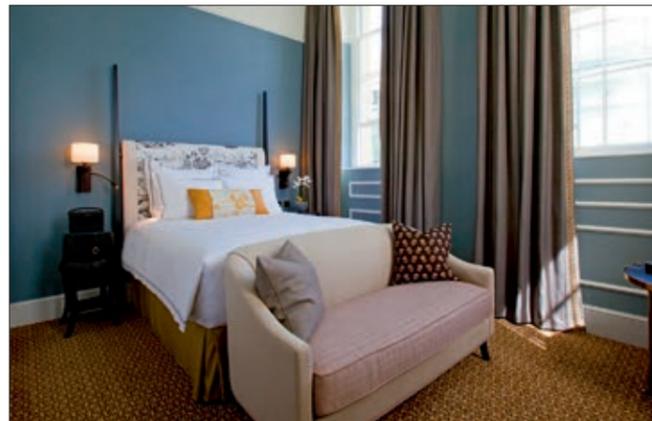
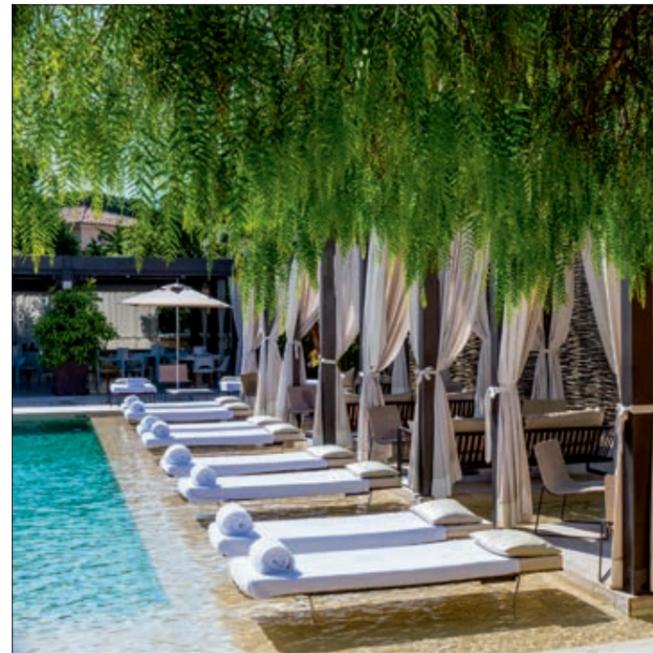
WWW.THEGLASSHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK

WWW.HOTELTHREADNEEDLES.CO.UK

WWW.THEACADEMYHOTEL.CO.UK

WWW.MONKEYISLANDESTATE.CO.UK

THE
GAINSBOROUGH
BATH SPA



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WWW.THEGAINSBOROUGHBATHSPA.CO.UK

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WWW.MUSE-HOTELS.COM

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THE
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WWW.NISEKO-VILLAGE.COM

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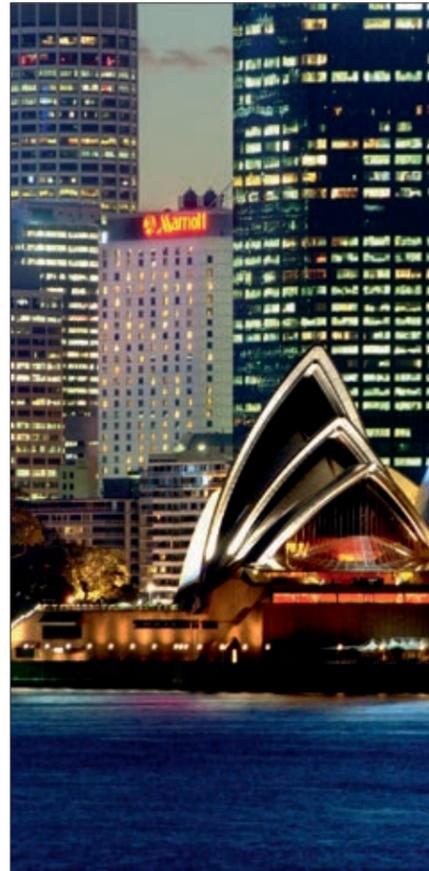
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