

Gostelow Report Live

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SPECIAL REPORT

Shanghai, June 8, 2017

The final day – and while we are working (for that is what it is) those billionaires and millionaires we are all chasing are in some cases travelling the world. As *Hurun Report's* Rupert Hoogewerf said Monday, the 3.38 million dollar-millionaires in China, median age 42, take an average three trips a year travelling in parties of eight and staying away ten days at a time. In summer and autumn it's Thailand, followed by Maldives, Fiji, Bali and Hawaii. In winter it's Japan, followed by Thailand, Australia, Korea and New Zealand, and when they really like a destination they return to it half a dozen times or more. Travel is their top hobby, then reading, drinking tea, driving around, and gourmet food, but their wish-list is to learn, or perfect, horseback riding, surfing, sailing, collecting art and paragliding – also, says Rupert Hoogewerf, everyone he meets is into running, dreaming of marathons. How, by the way, do you meet these people? One way is to hang out with realtors in Los Angeles, Seattle or San Francisco, the top 3 locations for serious Chinese property investment. Try mingling with the financial community: basketball star Yao Ming, worth \$120 million, has co-founded Yao Capital with Carlyle veteran David Han (among investors is WeChat parent Tencent, led by Pony Ma – a third of Tencent is held by Koos Bekker, owner of Babylonstoren in Franschhoek). Alternatively, penetrate Hangzhou's Zhejiang University, the top alumni network of China's dollar billionaires, who now number 29% of the world's total, with a tally of 609 compared with a mere 552 in the USA.

One&Only COO Philippe Zuber will announce his first urban resort soon. Sanya opens December - complementing city and beach resorts, expect nature resorts, spearheaded by Australia's **One&Only Wolgan Valley**, with a Rwanda pair to come, and 'lots of ideas'. **One&Only Le St-Geran** re-opens December, its former golf course becoming 48 for-sale private homes. As of this Tuesday, Australia's Hayman Island is no longer One&Only • Keith Barr, incoming CEO, IHG, once headed Australasia-Pacific. **InterContinental Sydney**, GM Jörg Boeckeler, is on the site of the first planting of grapes in Australia, back in 1788, and in 1849 what became the city's Treasury, based on London's famous Travellers' Club, was built. The Treasury is now the stunning three-floor lobby, with Vera Wang bridal salon and meeting rooms. A 32-floor modern block soars above, offering sensational Opera House, Circular Quay, and harbour views. The 2,500 sq ft Australia Suite's an Angelina Jolie favourite (does she tinkle on its grand piano?), and definitely patronize the 31st floor club lounge, on a par with other view-blessed InterContinental Club lounges in Budapest, Hong Kong and London. The super-energised traveller may climb Sydney's Harbour Bridge, ideal for memorable bridge-top proposals, or run in the Botanic Gardens. Perfect for those whose sport includes hitting a little white ball, **InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa**, GM Andrew Davidson, re-opens its Natadola Bay Championship Course after the final of the Fiji International, August 20th, 2017.

A former IHG guy, Michael Golden, is GM of 222-room **Park Hyatt Bangkok**, which will have an open air rooftop with AvroKO-designed restaurant, up on the 36th floor. The 5,000 sq ft premium suite, occupying the whole 33rd floor, has an outdoor terrace and, inside, a plunge pool, steam room and jacuzzi: general designer is Yabu Pushelberg, of **Park Hyatt New York** and **St Regis Bal Harbour** fame • At the 160-room **Armani Dubai**, within the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, the Armani Dubai Suite is just under 4,000 sq ft (GM Mark Kirby) • At the three month old **The Whitby Hotel New York**, GM Kathrin Apitz, the two-bedroom, 1,800 sq ft Whitby Suite overlooks Central Park • Renato Chizzola, **Le Cheval Blanc** VP Ops Asia & Middle East, is also GM, **Le Cheval Blanc Randheli**, which has one of the Maldives' prime Owner's Villa, 10,000 sq ft, four-bedrooms: for maximum style, fly in from Male International Airport in the hotel's branded Twin Otter seaplane. Myriad style elements here include yellow work-out headsets that exactly match bathroom toiletries, flip flops and highly-desirable beach bags. Kids love Le Carrousel, with Le Paddock for teens, and adults love the new Friday evening white-night beach parties. Note: Cheval Blanc's Paris conversion, by leathers-wearing Peter Marino, is now slated for early 2019.

Small Luxury Hotels of the World CEO Filip Boyen has 17 properties here, up from 12 a year ago, and he expects even more at ILTM Asia 2018. His take-aways include a better-than-ever opening Forum, and, throughout, networking that is only paralleled by Cannes. He, like his fellow industry leaders, is buoyed by increasing resilience among travellers and suppliers, although tragically aware of the continuous uncertainty of the outside world (as we gathered here in Shanghai, among all eight SLH hotels in London, there were, a few hours after the latest atrocity, only two individual cancellations) • Talking of London, in deference to Chinese superstition there is no fourth floor at **The Arch**, says GM Eva Mount. Part of the three-hotel AB group, this 82-room property, at Marble Arch, is a conversion of seven adjoining town houses – three signature suites have private exterior courtyards, with heaters to extend 'summer' (have an outdoor oh-so-English gin-and-tonic to recover after shopping at, say, Primark or Zara, both within a few minutes' walk) • Want to tour some of England's loveliest areas? Talk to the newly-launched **Ionic Luxury Hotels**, led by MD Andrew Stembridge. Start, say, in the idyllic rural **Chewton Glen Hampshire**, in the New Forest (under two hours' drive from Heathrow) – ideally book a designer treehouse suite, with wood-burning stove and memorable picnic-delivery breakfast, with a five-minute walk, through sculpture-highlighted woodland, to the main hotel, which now has a celebrity-chef cook school. It's then a 90-minute drive to **Cliveden**, the iconic riverside stately home in outstanding grounds: its spa, with the history-full Profumo outside pool, opens July 18th, 2017. Next comes **Lygon Arms**, an authentic Cotswolds coaching inn, nearby antiques hunting. For more shopping, Buckingham Palace and other London sights, finish at **11 Cadogan Gardens**, in Chelsea. Green tea, and transport, available throughout.

Hotel Brunelleschi, GM, [Claudio Catani](#), in the medieval Pagliazza Byzantine Tower, is within ten minutes' walk of many of Florence's renowned sights (some of 96 bedrooms have superb Cathedral views): the 592 sq ft Pool Suite (#415) does indeed come with a jacuzzi, plus one-way transport, a dedicated concierge and breakfast • **Armani Hotel Milano's** spa offers treatments themed for the seasons – just right for before- or after-haute couture shows – visit Armani/Silos, an exclusive exhibition of four decades of Giorgio's designs • For Chianti, between Florence and Siena, head for the 25-room **Hotel Le Fontanelle** (GM [Marion Winski](#)): top suite, #16, is 610 sq ft, offers intimacy, a private garden and breathtaking views of hills • Also in Tuscany, consider **Argentario Golf Resort & Spa**, which comes with owned residences. The new three-bedroom Locker Cottage, 250 yards from the main building, allows pets, and on-site chef if required (there's a heliport) • There's genuine Italian - food, that is - at CottoCrudo restaurant at **Four Seasons Prague** - GM [René Beauchamp](#) sees great interest from Korea, thanks to television producer [Sin U-cheol's](#) second 'Lovers in...' series, starring [Jeon Do-yeon](#) (Sin had already upped interest in the French capital with his earlier *Lovers in Paris* series). Unique among luxury hotels in town, Four Seasons Prague is right on the Vltava River, five minutes' walk from Charles Bridge • Ever drunk your make-up, ladies? In Budapest, **Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace** partners with Hungary's world-famous Omorovicza brand: Omorovicza Fizz, with Floraisan Gin and Grand Marnier, is sold in both the Lobby Bar and the KOLLAZS Brasserie & Bar, a really popular place with A-listers.

Shanghai's fast becoming one of the world's design capitals – **Jing An Shangri-La's** lobby offers eye-opening gear. Harvard grad [Timothy Parent](#), here seven years, runs *chinafashionbloggers.com*, an aggregator for who's designing, and wearing what. Follow [Roy Zhang's The Shanghai Express](#), and look out for such KOLs, key opinion leaders, as [Fil Xiaobai](#) (other names are [Leaf Greener](#), [Vanessa Hong's thehautepursuit](#), and [Nik Wang's nikmode](#) – he likes to be photographed at **Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai**) • Beijing's own-grown fashionistas meet regularly with female expats – there can be up to 70 ladies, roughly half-half locals and others, at gatherings of the invitation-only Champagne and Caviar Club (and, looking at photos, Ascot-type hats come out in force at events which as the club's name implies, is enlivened with bubbles and eggs) – partner brands are Park Hyatt, Ritz-Carlton and Sofitel • Luxury Collection's **Suiran**, 'green skyline', is aptly named – this fascinating take on a ryokan is only 20 minutes from Kyoto and its thousands of temples but, backed right on to Arashiyama Park and on the bank of Hozu river, you are in beautiful countryside. What was Baron Kawasaki's home in 1899 is now Kyo-Suiran restaurant. Next to it is a modern three-floor block, in traditional style. Of its 39 rooms, the 1,000 sq ft Presidential Suite has a central glass-sided shower cabin – it, and several rooms, have personal onsen hot tubs hewn from local stone and filled, fresh for you, with amazingly soothing and therapeutic hot water from natural springs. Get masses of exercise from hill or flat hiking, and enjoy exquisite local food, say grilled Omi wagyu with abalone, and saké. Jovial GM [Hiroshi Komoto](#) perfected his English, as a teenager, by studying American football on holidays in Hawaii.

This Tuesday, June 6th, 2017, saw soft opening of **Taj Exotica Resort and Spa Havelock Island**, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, GM [Agnash Kuma](#). Designed by its co-owner, versatile [Pramod Ranjan](#) – who also designed the newly-renamed **Taj Madikeri Resort and Spa** – this first luxury property in the entire Indian Andamans has 75 detached villas, all at least 1,500 sq ft with wide decking above four foot-high stilts, and curved roofs in local Jarawa style. Visa in hand, fly into Port Blair, then 30 minutes' boat • **Taj Hotels Palaces Resorts Safaris** now has 99 properties in 62 destinations. Specifically featured here in Shanghai are **The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, New York; Taj Dubai, and Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives**, all of which have Mandarin-speaking employees. In general, Taj is featuring its Tajness philosophy, now led by impressive commercial guru [Chinmai Sharma](#), and another initiative is Warmer Welcomes, a loyalty alliance with Shangri-La • **Shangri-La Singapore** (RVP GM [Reto Klausner](#)), the hotel that, way back in 1971, started the brand, always has something new to offer. Think re-done rooms and lobby, and, outside, a 12-foot fretwork-tepee-like wood Orchid House, bespoke [Franklin Po](#) for Tiera Design and filled with blooms: book it for Champagne and canapés by creative chef [Vincent Wong](#), maximum four guests • And, on the move, [Ulf Bremer](#) has left Kowloon Shangri-La Hong Kong to become GM of **Shangri-La Hotel, Qaryat Al Beri, Abu Dhabi**

Silversea has new leaders. Chairman [Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio](#) met [Roberto Martinoli](#) as teenage students at Venice's Francesco Morosini Naval Military School. Now Martinoli, on the Silversea board since 2013, is its CEO – he continues as Chairman of ferry company Grandi Navi Veloci. Mrs Martinoli, better known as [Barbara Muckermann](#), returns to Silversea as CMO. Also new is the company's two month-old flagship Silver Muse, with eight dining options, a Heywood Hill bespoke library and a Zàgara Beauty Spa. Silver Cloud becomes an expedition ship as of November – in all, during 2018 the company's nine ships will visit 130 countries, 856 destinations • Yes, expeditions, and experiences, are words that appeal to all travellers, from Asia Pacific and the world. Increasingly expect the entire travel journey to start, and end, at home. **Four Seasons** has led the way in offering round-the-world trips, and several individual hotels now also offer private jet pickup. **Dolder Grand's** MD [Mark Jacob](#), here on the **Leading Hotels of the World** stand, says the hotel's GS650 Gulfstream has 14.5 hours' endurance, with overnight beds: the hotel hosts live concerts by [Sir Elton John](#) on July 12th, and [Katie Melua](#) on July 22nd, and, for foodies, its ten-chef, 24 Michelin stars The Epicure runs September 13-17, 2017.

Well done [Alison Gilmore](#) and team for a fabulously memorable ILTM. Next Asia-centric dates: **ILTM Japan**, inbound only, February 26-28, 2018: **ILTM Asia Pacific**, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, May 21-24, 2018, and then, back here, outbound only **ILTM China**, October 2018. @ILTM events #iltmasia www.iltm.com/asia