

# Gostelow Report Live

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Cannes, December 5th, 2019**

There's always something new at ILTM. This year Ralf Ohletz Graf von Plettenberg is handing out yet another business card – he's Senior Partner at **Unique Hotels & Resorts AG**. With his business partner René Wilms he's getting ready to re-imagine Coquillade Village, an entire hilltop in vineyards of Provence. Stay there to feel like Lord, or Lady, of an extensive Manor • It is probably less than four years since 'experience' has been the buzz word in luxury travel – and it is already over-used. This has now become so commonplace that it has moved on, to evolve to **the ecosystem of travel**, a phrase that, says Winston Chesterfield, seemed the most fitting, to cover everything about travel that is NOT lodging and transport.

Winston Chesterfield has been immersed in luxury+data for many years, first with **Wealth-X**, which is now owned by Savanta, and, since this July, with London-based **Barton Consulting**. In a report released today, he says the total spend on activities, food, drink and entertainment and like is thought to be \$1.54 trillion a year. Of this, around 77% comes from stay-at-home or domestic travel, but even so, international travel contributes \$347 billion to the ecosystem total (and add to that travel and cost of hotel rooms, of course). If the ecosystem were a country, it would rank in the world's top fifteen economies. Winston Chesterfield claimed that there are about 22.8 million worldwide who are worth more than one million US, and this group controls over \$94 trillion wealth: these wealthy may only constitute 0.3% of the entire population, when they travel internationally they notch up \$130 billion-worth of ecosystem economy.

**Belmond La Residencia**, Mallorca, is home to the largest exhibition of Miró paintings in a hotel anywhere in the world. Thirty-three of his original artworks are on display in Café Miró - the hotel's lawn is also one of Spain's largest outdoor sculpture gardens: it features *Tete* (1975), a Miró bronze head. After taking in the art, enjoy Belmond La Residencia's "Tea with Miró," inspired by the artist's signature use of bold colours and abstract line drawings (tea is served on an exclusive tea set made of La Cartujade Sevilla porcelain with a design based on Miró's 1952 work, *Sans titre*, and you can buy the china in the hotel's boutique). **W Verbier**, for the fourth year running, is the World's Best Ski Hotel (World Ski Awards), thanks to 'contemporary urban design amid a spectacular alpine setting'; the 121-room hotel is formed of four traditional wood chalets joined by a glass atrium – architects are Concrete, from Amsterdam • **Maisons Pariente** opens its 55-key ski-in, ski-out **Le Coucou Méribel** on 11 December, GM Frédéric Picard (there's a Tata Harper spa) • **Tschuggen Grand Hotel, Arosa**, claims one of the biggest snow-related spas (its Bergoase Spa, with 5,000 sq m and 14 treatment rooms, including two doubles, is designed by Mario Botta, best known for San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art: stay at the hotel, also, for snowshoe hiking and Nordic walks, an impressive kids' club and Tschuggen Express, that whisks you to the piste in two minutes • For snow addicts who want even more, do not forget Michelin-starred cuisine at **The Carlton Hotel, St Moritz**

**InterContinental London Park Lane**, under RVP/GM Alvaro Rey, takes its accommodations even higher. Signature Suites, already finished, include several with amazing views of Buckingham Palace, a couple of hundred yards away. Coming up shortly is the RPW-designed Mayfair Collection, a two floor hotel-within-a-hotel. In addition, the already-superb seventh floor Club InterContinental is being enhanced, as if an airline's First Class lounge • Across town, in April 2020 Taj opens a **London Chambers Club** for guests of 51 Buckingham Gate – street-set, and replacing Bank and Zander restaurants, the club, designed by Conran, will include a ten-seat private dining room. The company's Chambers clubs date back to 1975, when the first was established at Taj Mahal Palace & Hotel, Mumbai, India. Membership is now global. Members enjoy dedicated food, drink and entertainment areas, plus 25% off bedrooms, breakfast for two included, plus 25% off all food, beverage and wellness, with laundry at half price.

Hyatt's global partnership with **Small Luxury Hotels of the World** is showing imaginative results: **Park Hyatt Zurich** works with Le Grand Bellevue Gstaad to offer two city nights and four ski nights, with Rolls-Royce transfers between • In Japan, Hervé Marzella, GM **Park Hyatt Tokyo** -still the *Lost In Translation* hotel - says it's not so much the Olympics that concern him but what happens afterwards? 12 staff members have been with the hotel since it opened 25 years ago • Immerse yourself throughout Japan, says Edie Rodriguez, Ponant

Americas Brand Chairman and Corporate Special Advisor for **Ponant Cruises** – one of Ponant’s many exciting forthcoming cruises is Le Soléal’s 30 May – 7 June 2020 voyage, from Osaka to Maizuru, visiting Hiroshima, Miujima, Uwajima and Nagasaki, then going to Busan in South Korea before back to Maizuru. And looking ahead to 2021, Le Lyrial’s 28 November – 12 December Antarctica & the Total Solar Eclipse cruise, a partnership with **Abercrombie & Kent** (experts aboard include rocket scientist Dr David Crain, former astronaut Dr Kathy Sullivan, astronomer Dr Massimo Tarengi).

London’s **The Savoy, a Fairmont Hotel**, is one key reason owners of a hotel in Prague are switching their property to the Fairmont flag. What is the secret to The Savoy’s success? Its always-listening GM Phil Barnes cites three focuses, on colleagues first, followed in turn by guests and continual improvement. For first-time visitors, by the way, make sure of a River Thames-facing view, book a carving lesson, followed by lunch, in the hotel-run Simpson’s on The Strand restaurant, and pre- or post- a theatre show that is probably on the agenda have a casual snack in Kaspar’s Seafood Bar and Grill (named for the metre-tall black cat sculpted by Basil Ionides to stave off bad luck after a South African diamond magnate, Woolf Joel, entertained 13 to dinner here and subsequently fell on hard times – the statue is brought in to become a 14th ‘guest’). Hot news: Gordon Ramsay’s CEO has sold a five-part character-full series on The Savoy to ITV • England will have a second Fairmont, in Windsor – announced Tuesday.

Also coming up: Next week, **Minor Group** opens its 93-key **Anantara Tozeur Resort**, Tunisia, on the edge of the Sahara – GM Lotfi Mosbahi • **The Museum Hotel Antalya**, 200 rooms, opens 1st January 2020: as its name implies there is an integral museum encompassing 23 centuries of history, including what is claimed to be the world’s largest single-floor mosaic dating back to the fourth century – Sabiha Asfuroğlu Abbasoğlu is in charge of her family’s project • In Spring 2020, Sébastien Renard opens the Tourbier family’s 49-key **Les Sources de Cheverny**, in Loire Valley vineyards – the former castle, dating back to the 18th century, was home of the Marquise Méloize Fresnoy • **Le Cheval Blanc Paris** gets ready for its April 2020 opening: the 72-key hotel, with interiors by Peter Marino, is part of the LVMH-owned La Samaritaine department store, which dates back to 1870. Hotel highlights include proximity to the Louvre, which can also be reached by boat. GM is Romain Meiran • Denmark’s **Villa Copenhagen**, a 390-key Preferred hotel, is a conversion of the 2018-vintage city centre post office, opens April 2020, GM Peter Høgh Pedersen – Shamballa Jewels’ Olga Krugovskaya is designing top suites • **Banyan Tree** this week announced a 72-pool villa resort at Krabi’s Tubkaek Beach, opening mid-2020 • And looking further ahead, **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**’s Valentina De Santis, she who embodies the best of Italian genuine hospitality, alerts us to a unique sister property, **Villa Passalacqua**, scheduled to open nearby late-Spring 2021.

Amanda Hyndman, **Virtuoso**’s 2019 GM of the year – chosen by Virtuoso’s 20,000-plus top advisors worldwide – is thrilled that for the first time since 2016 **Mandarin Oriental London Hyde Park** is fully open, refurbished, with such additions as a 440 sq m penthouse suite (three bedrooms, panoramic views of London, and Hyde Park): choose, whichever category of suite or bedroom, a Town view, directly down into Knightsbridge, or Country, into that park. Amanda, as everyone calls her, is a byword for offering ‘kind and generous’ service.

If sustainability is top of a buyer’s list, think of **Valsana Hotel & Apartments, Arosa**. Its selling points include an ecological footprint of just 4% with virtually zero emissions. Almost all the heat needed for the property is generated, stored and recirculated using waste heat and ground probes with the aid of the site’s own ice battery. The eco philosophy runs throughout the hotel, from chunky wood furniture, floors and exterior from trees of the surrounding area and eco-friendly natural coconut fibre mattresses • **The Langham Hotel, London**, is the UK’s 2019 *Cateys* winner for sustainability – MD Bob van den Oord credits such ground-breaking innovations as its Orca food digester (and, incidentally, Langham CEO Stefan Leser deserves an award for personally manning the company’s lovely pale-pink stand throughout the show: ‘it’s my job’, he says honestly).

Designer and influencer Patrick Hellmann gives his name to one of Europe’s most exquisite boutique hotels: **Schlosshotel Berlin by Patrick Hellman**, on the Preferred stand, is a 54-room conversion of Palais Pannwitz, built for the Kaiser’s lawyer, Dr Walter von Pannwitz. Over the last couple of decades the treasure has variously been associated with Karl Lagerfeld, Ritz-Carlton and Regent and now, with Patrick Hellman interiors, new GM is Stefan Athmann (his place as GM of **The Regent Berlin** is taken by Claus Geisselmann, who moves there from **InterContinental Budapest**) • **Preferred**, by the way, is strongly pushing its Preferred Residences, which now number over 100. Some latest additions include a new nine-bedroom house in outer Geneva, and 13 chalets in Courchevel.

**LDC Hotels**, also known as Chinatrust Hotels Ltd, is thrilled that one of its 12 properties, **Palazzo Venart, Venice**, has just been awarded that city's only second Michelin star, for its GLAM Restaurant (Chef Donato Ascani works with consultant Enrico Bartolini) • The **Dorchester Collection** this week launches [#DCmoments Food Guides](#), a new digital amenity to discover what James Thompson considers the best haunts - and casual eating in Los Angeles, London, Paris, Milan and Rome: Thompson is a Sydney-born, London-based photographer who created the **@food\_feels** Instagram account five years ago • Food is free at **Nihi Sumba**, and CEO James McBride says psychologically this encourages repeat visits: guests check out to a three-figure bill, say for alcohol and spa, forgetting they've already paid exorbitantly for rooms+food. To encourage Japanese business, Nihi Sumba is exclusively hosting the Japanese Olympics surfing team • **Burj Al Arab** offers exclusivity in many forms, including only serving 20 classic martinis in Derek Redman crystal every night • Staying in a wine tank suite is unique – that's what **Dexamenes Seaside Hotel** on Greece's Peloponnese offers. 34 suites are from 30 sq m up (Owner/GM of this **Design Hotel** is Nikos Karaflos).

Designers can almost make or break a hotel these days (top names are Alexandra Champalimaud, who has re-done **Raffles Singapore**; André Fu, known for the perennially-hot-lister **Upper House, Hong Kong** and now, also, for his latest creation, **St Regis Hong Kong**, and Yabu Pushelburg). Yabu Pushelberg has helped with the look of the 350-key **The Londoner**, a Preferred hotel opening in Leicester Square next June • Glamour past, and today. The 110-acre **Round Hill Hotel and Villas**, near Montego Bay, was built as a colony of cottages for the rich and famous of the 1950s: now, says MD Josef Forstmayr, the 117-key complex offers breath-taking sunsets, an opulent infinity pool and one of the best resort spas in the Caribbean.

**Soneva**, led by the highly creative Sonu Shivdasani, adds, from April 2020, overwater villas to the much-loved **Soneva Fushi**. Sized from 584 sq m to 857 sq m (two-bedrooms), they all come with slides right down into the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. The new overwater villas are reached by boat from a jetty near the resort's Dolphin Beach. Sonu Shivdasani and his wife Eva last week sold a considerable share of Soneva, the brand, to the mighty KSL Capital. Based in Denver CO and led by mathematical economist CEO Eric Resnick, KSL's many other investments include **Amangani, Jackson Hole WY; Monarch Beach, Dana Point CA**, and Jacob and Sarah Dusek's no-WiFi Under Canvas glamping sites.

There's art galore at **The Peninsula Hong Kong**. As well as a characteristic bulbous-black anthropomorphic Botero sculpture outside the front façade, there are, inside, numerous delightful paintings by Colombia's most famous artist. Other highlights at the hotel that is the pinnacle of excellence include authorised *Hello Kitty* afternoon teas • **The Peninsula Shanghai** celebrates its first decade with a fascinating mezzanine-level display of photographs, from topping-off the hotel in 2009 to images of the annual Debutantes' Ball, and the squash championships held in a glass-walled court on an upper terrace • **The Peninsula Beijing** is 20 years older: it brings a splash of colour to its 30th anniversary celebrations by welcoming Russian artist Max Goshko-Dankov (MGDankov) to produce a birthday-themed 'Colouring Wall' installation coloured by long-standing hotel staff and hotel guests – see it on the gallery leading to the third floor pool and fitness centre • The West Terrace of **The Peninsula New York**'s Salon de Ning Rooftop Bar and Terrace has been transformed into Chalet de Ning. This glamorous winter wonderland features two chalet-inspired domes where guests can warm up as the temperature drops – open through April 2020 • As part of its Art in Resonance programme, **The Peninsula Bangkok** displays Thai-born artist Bua Wannaprapa Tungksmith – also known as Bua Smith: her paper cut-out art pieces are spotlighted until 6 January 2020.

So, big congratulations to **ILTM** Portfolio Director Alison Gilmore and your team. Tonight, Thursday, we all have one more don't miss – at **ILTM's closing party**, at the **Martinez**, Taittinger and let our hair down, what a date, dance to late. Then, French air traffic control and other travel entities permitting, travel home without disruption. Happy holidays and see you at various other ILTMs, and certainly back here in Cannes, 7 to 10 December 2020.