

# Gostelow Report Live

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## SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 7th, 2017

**Rosewood** announces a forthcoming 132-room hotel in Munich – and a new lifestyle brand, **KHOS** • Bordeaux-based Stéphane Tillement launches winepaths.com, the Michelin for wine tourism • Hilton Luxury's John Vanderslice nabs Peter Bowling to run **Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills** – oh that Vanderslice, who obviously loves rooftop parties, jolly cold here in Cannes, could fly us all to Beverly Hills to that gorgeous rooftop • And new airlift continues to boost destinations: Air France's Paris CDG-Marrakech has helped occupancy rise 23% at **La Mamounia**, MD Pierre Jochem (also, Qatar flies from Doha, helping transit Chinese business, no visas needed): now what will British Airways' nonstop to Mahe, from March 24th, do for Seychelles?

John Conway continues as Bahamas GM **The Ocean Club**, evolving from One&Only to Four Seasons: Four Seasons also manages the owner's equally legendary, seasonal, **Grand-Hotel du Cap-Ferrat** (GM François-Regis Simon). 17 acres of Jean Mus-designed grounds, green parrots flitting in and out of the Aleppo pines that provide an umbrella over outdoor dining terraces, but lunch down by the heated seawater infinity pool, where Pierre Gruneberg teaches swimming, as he has since 1950. Try the Pinto-designed, 2,300 sq. ft. Penthouse Suite • Mallorca's **Belmond La Residencia**, GM Ulisses Marreiros, has additional highest-level suites, say #82, plunge pool, looking across to Deia (take a Tuesday escorted walk to some of the village's 50 working artists, mostly Americans or Brits): donkey picnics, tennis, tabletennis, cycling, and onsite art lessons • Gerald Van Reck, GM **Buddha-Bar Hotel Paris** – one of over 650 Preferred properties worldwide - complements such artistic-wows as the entrance's 75 red lanterns, and a Sophia Loren blow-up of the wall of suite #202 with pop-ups that may turn the courtyard into an alpine chalet or Japanese sushi hang-out • Paris courtyard hotels maximise appeal – you never know what Claudio Ceccherelli'll devise at **Park Hyatt Vendôme** • At **Raffles Royal Monceau**, GM Aaron Kaupp's current winter wonderland includes four alpine ski chalets, sponsors Fusalp and Veuve Clicquot) • Courtyard-less, **Mandarin Oriental Geneva** GM Lars Wagner once again turns his café into a woodlined chalet, complete with dirndls and raclette • At **Sunrise Kempinski**, an hour from Beijing, GM Brice Pean offers world-class jazz in May, a Tottenham Hotspur soccer clinic (5-18 year olds) in July, and, year-round, land, or Bell-47 helicopter trips to, or over, Mutianyu, the 'real Great Wall': his boutique hotels, 10-19 rooms, fully staffed, with presidential suites, 80-ft pools, cinemas, ideal for small meetings or family groups • Families love **Halekulani**, just outside Honolulu, great beaches, dining, space: under CEO Peter Shaindlin, Halekulani's now building a resort on Okinawa • Cayman's **Kimpton Seafire**, GM Steven Andre, seemingly brings ocean, sand inside (a whole Cat Boat, Miss Ola, hangs from the lobby ceiling, designer Powerstrip Studio): there are 16 Ocean Suites, 1,700 sq. ft., eat tortillas feet in sand.

Why no hotel names among judges for top-digital *Digiday* awards coming up? Seems like real-name influencers attract social. Watch bystanders capturing Marie-France van Damme easy-wear SJP-Sex and the City clothes in her new **Peninsula Beverly Hills** boutique (GM Offer Nissenbaum's brother Ronen's now CEO Dan Hotels) • Hugo Boss' great-grandsons Dominik and Jochen Holy co-own the 70-brands **OUTLETCITY METZINGEN** in Baden-Württemberg (30 minutes from Stuttgart, an hour from Baden-Baden, two hours Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich) – the pair plan two new-build hotels • **Gstaad Palace**, Owner/GM Andrea Scherz, has inhouse De Grisogono, Polo Ralph Lauren; family-friendly activities, snow, summer sun (overnight high above the treeline at the 1786 Walig Hut, keeping warm, helped by a glass of Ticino red, under the bed's fur throws) • Will more retail join Armani, Bulgari and now Karl Lagerfeld into running, or at least patronising, hotels? Spain's mammoth **El Corte Inglés** group, however, takes another direction. Its Viajes el Corte Inglés/ ECI Travel adds MICE programmes for Canada and the USA, and Portugal and Spain • Lagerfeld, who some think doesn't personally like Christmas, has nonetheless designed a stunning upside-down tree for **Claridge's**, GM Paul Jackson – Claridge's has a cookbook, and own-label bespoke gin • When Lagerfeld's in Tokyo, discusses French history with **Park Hyatt Tokyo** GM Hervé Mazella – #12 corner suites give bathtub views of Mount Fuji, Rainbow Bridge and Tokyo Bay (at the 52nd floor New York Grill admire, and perhaps buy, the 65-layered Damascene-pattern steak knives, from Seki, home of sword-making) • Look over Tokyo Bay, too, from Hamarikyu Gardens-facing rooms at **Conrad Tokyo** (GM Neil McInnes): 40% repeat business, great public transport location, and the 37th floor Club lounge has working fire, and on-duty chef • In Japan, April 30th, 2019, the day after his father's abdication, Crown Prince Naruhito becomes Emperor • **Andaz Tokyo** is so popular that local Millennials line up ages before Saturday's 3pm checkin for weekend staycation, GM Ross Cooper - the rooftop offers not only a wedding chapel but an eight-seat sushi bar • **Tokyo Station Hotel**, GM Hiroshi Fujisaki, is ideal for Japan's outstanding rail network (the 150-room heritage building dates back to 1915).

Pierre Gagnaire's one of the most-respected global chefs – he adds, **Capella Shanghai** (as CEO, expect Nicholas Clayton to take this brand forward big-time, with Ubud next, then Bangkok • Wolfgang Puck's a big name in Los Angeles – his portfolio of restaurants include those at Dorchester Collection's **Bel-Air**, and the Richard Meier-designed CUT at **Four Seasons' Beverly Wilshire** • In London, Puck's CUT is at **45 Park Lane**, GM John Scanlon – it's 20 yards from its famous sibling, **The Dorchester**, new GM/RVP is returned-Englishman Robert Whitfield • **The Eden Rome**'s refit actually shows how the Dorchester Collection thinks outside-the-box: room count down to 98, GM Luca Virgilio, designers Bruno Moynard and Patrick Jouin, a new garden restaurant, with aged olive tree, adjacent to rooftop fine dining (Vatican views!), serious Citterio-Technogym and a Farmacia Profumo Santa Maria Novella, and Sonya Dakar, spa • At the Citterio-designed **Bulgari Hotel London** (GM Kostas Sfalotos) – five minutes to both Harrods and Harvey Nichols – the restaurant's unsurprisingly Italian, Rivea, by Alain Ducasse.

**Soneva**'s Sonu Shivdasani invented chocolate factories at his resorts: now, in the Maldives, **Soneva Fushi**, which has a on-site glass studio, cook with molten glass (no, we do not know how – ask Sonu). At **Soneva Kiri**, there's a new table-for-two, offering a five-course menu, all mushrooms, in a cave hidden by foliage. At **Soneva Jani**, waterslides going directly from over-water villas with retractable roofs apparently continue to go viral • **Hotel Sacher Wien** (GM Reiner Heilmann) has Time to Chocolate for spa, and bathrooms – choose a Rochon-designed new-build seventh floor terrace suite overlooking the Opera (so close you feel you can touch it) and book ahead to join local diners in the hotel's Rote Bar • **The Imperial New Delhi** (GM Vijay Wanchoo), designed by Lutyens as part of the 1931 city plan, has subterranean squash and white-marbled wellness, walls discreetly embellished with inlaid precious stones – don't miss an above-ground 19th century Anglo-Indian art tour • **The Negresco**, a unique five-floor eclectic art-house (Niki

de St Phalle, Rodin, Vaserely), has bellmen in hunting gear, Michelin dining, best views over Nice's Promenade des Anglais, GM Pierre Bord • Home of Tiepolos and more, at **Cavaliere Rome** (Waldorf Astoria, GM Alessandro Cabella) the Petronius Suite, just redesigned by Studio Papiri, can be extended to 4,400 sq. ft. – and why not take a Veuve Clicquot picnic into its park?

Massimo and Chiara Ferragamo's Rosewood-managed **Castiglione del Bosco**, GM Davide Bertilaccio in UNESCO-listed Val d'Orcia Natural Park has 17/18th century updated farmhouses, sleeping maximum 12 – 4,200-acre vineyards, golf • At **The Alpina Gstaad**, GM Eric Favre, private helicopter flight to Glacier 3000's Refuge L'Espace restaurant, fly around the Matterhorn • Joanne Selby, GM Sun International's Sunlux **Table Bay at The Waterfront**, offers foraging for indigenous Cape Town plants to be used for dinner • **Six Senses'** energetic CEO Neil Jacobs is having the time of his professional life - he's preparing for Bhutan, Fiji, India and Israel • **The Setai**, Tel Aviv, opens January, in this vibrant city's bustling Jaffa area: the Nacacche family (who also co-own The Setai, Miami Beach) have here converted the former governor's mansion, and some 13th century ruins – GM Bruno de Schuytek, rooftop pool, 150 rooms with stunning views, the 1,200 sq. ft. Presidential Suite has all-wall windows • An adaptation of seven historic Amsterdam canal houses, **The Pulitzer** GM Alex van Gastel, has themed suites (the 700 sq. ft. Book Collectors Suite has books framing its main door): a 1909 slipper boat plies canals from 5pm daily • Music-lovers head for Luxury Collection's **Hotel Imperial**, GM Mario Habicher, for proximity to Vienna's Opera House and a piano partnership with Bösendorfer (= in-hotel concerts): Elizabeth Suites have 18-foot ceilings, damask walls and gorgeous art - check Winterhalter's Franz Joseph on the stairwell, one foot 'moves', like Mona Lisa's eyes • By contrast, **Conrad New York**, GM Marlene Poynder, a futuristic Hudson River-set building surrounded by designer retail and restaurants, stresses mod-US art, including an 800 sq. ft. Sol LeWitt, Loopy Doopy, all blues • LeWitt's same-sized lobby-set piece at **Park Hyatt Zurich**, GM Benno Geruschkat, is seven-hued Wavy Colour Bands.

Forum speaker Onno Poortier would approve - at Starwood Capital's **1 Hotel South Beach Miami**, MD Milton Sgarbi, bedrooms have third taps, for triple-filtered water (or buy minibars' water, bottled in paper cartons, or Champagne). The hotel's *Field Report* newspaper has instructions on turning pages into paper pots for seedlings • Starwood Capital's **Baccarat** brand may so far only have its launch New York property, but MD Hermann Elger promise expansion, soon. Baccarat glassware, and, for suites, free blow-dries • **Raffles Dubai**, GM Ayman Gharib, is a hit with families, and shopaholics (Wafi Mall's next door): **Raffles Istanbul**, GM Christian Hirt, is part of mixed-use Zorlu Center – **Raffles Singapore**, new GM Christian Westbeld, closes this month, to open its Alexandra Champalimaud new-look in July • Sir Stamford Raffles' descendant Sam Stamford Galsworthy created Suntory's Sipsmith gin – gin's it, worldwide: New York's stylishly re-designed **Barclay InterContinental**, MD Hervé Houdré, has over 90 labels in its lobby bar-lounge.

In Chiang Mai, **Dhara Dhevi's** Royal Villa spreads over 20,000 sq. ft. (well, it's six individual villas, sharing three private swimming pools). Overall, 12,000 antiques and, easier to count, 350 priceless floor rugs, GM Wichai Chonlahan • Montpellier's **Domaine de Verchant** has a 900 sq. ft. two-bedroom terrace apartment, spectacular vineyard views, GM Xavier Debaisieux (in 2018 Montpellier converts old printing, farm and storage buildings to Lez Market, with boutiques, antiques, farmers' markets and restaurants, workshop for startups and events) • And great views: **Palazzo Manfredi**, GM Bruno Papaleo, is closest to Rome's renovated Colosseum – four newly-added, 600 sq. ft. suites have glass walls facing that monument • At **Jing'An Shangri-La West Shanghai**, GM Marco Vazzoler, the 55th floor Horizon Club lounge is designed by André Fu (he also did the hotel's really-popular Summer Palace restaurant, try its dim sum).

**Corinthia London** is *Ultra Travel's* best hotel worldwide (GM Thomas Kochs): at Hilton's newly-relaunched **Trafalgar St James** (GM Joanne Taylor-Stagg), on the south of Trafalgar Square, find a club-like lower floor living room, a Mediterranean restaurant, and, ideal for summer, a rooftop bar with retractable canopy (in about three years, this'll have a sibling, when Admiralty Arch, literally straddling The Mall, opens as Waldorf Astoria) • Ten minutes' walk east of Trafalgar Square, **One Aldwych**, led once again by Simon Hirst, repositions – you're theatre-land, next to Covent Garden • **La Réserve Genève** is only 15 minutes from its city centre – take its free Moscato Privato, speeding across the lake (book the standalone 4,000 sq. ft. three-bedroom, glass-walled villa, right water-side): there's a serious spa, and typical Jacques Garcia colour. CEO Jean-Luc Naret • Michele Bonan has done Ori Kafri's **JK Place Firenze** - ask GM Claudio Meli, author of *JK Essential Guide to Florence*, about best restaurants: Bonan's also decorated **JK Place Capri**, a favourite courting venue of Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux • Pat King, CEO Dublin-based **Doyle Collection**, re-launched **The Bloomsbury**, London, last month, Martin Brudnizki interiors • Martin Brudnizki's also done **Langham London's** phenomenally successful new pub, The Wigmore, fish 'n' chips and a pint, three minutes from Oxford Circus – celebrity Parisien mixologist Remy Savage now heads adjacent Artesian bar. MD Bob van den Oord, who took 15 ILTM agents round London in Minis enroute to Cannes, helped Langham's Simon Manning co-host *Travel+Leisure's* pink party last night (and at 11 a.m. the pair had 'Skype-attended' CEO Bob Warman's Hong Kong leaving party).

Yesterday's pre-lunch calm evacuation showed how responsible, and quick, our beloved industry is. And now ILTM enthusiasts scatter worldwide – award winner Matthew Upchurch is taking his family volunteering for a week, in Central America, while a Rome GM wonders what to do with a top ILTM buyer descending on him for New Year. Well done Alison Gilmore and your lovely team. Now, mark ILTM Asia Pacific, Singapore, May 21-24, 2018, and Cannes, ILTM, December 3-7, 2018, **see you there!**

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