

Gostelow Report Live

exclusively for ILTM/Reed Travel Exhibitions

SPECIAL REPORT

Singapore, May 22, 2018

Welcome to **the first ILTM Asia Pacific** here in stunning Singapore. **Gostelow Report Live** – at the request of Reed Travel Exhibitions, organisers of ILTM – gives exclusive insights and news items on this momentous event. For the first time, Gostelow Report Live is exclusively digital, on the ILTM app and on view.iltm.com • Innovation was also shown by Saturday's Royal Wedding, such a superlative event that any of the British among the 553 exhibitors here are understandably smiling. Many Australian buyers, plus [Matthew Upchurch](#) and other **Virtuoso** leaders watched the wedding drinking, courtesy of **Regent Seven Seas'** [Steve Odell](#) and [Lisa Pile](#), with flutes of Moët in the Ritz-Carlton Suite, when **Ritz-Carlton Millenia** GM [Peter Mainguy](#) revealed how his hotel's Olympic pool would be covered over for last night's memorable party, post-Forum (when he first launched the pool's plexiglass cover in June 2017, Mainguy, whose own vehicles range from Ducatis galore to a vintage fire engine, drove a red Mercedes convertible to show the cover's strength).

Now, today, tomorrow and Thursday, there will be serious business, professional networking between all exhibitors and 538 highest-end buyers. There are 155 main exhibition stands, from 46 countries. The buyers, composed of highest-end travel advisors, concierge companies and private travel designers, come from 16 countries in Asia Pacific, plus seven Russia/CIS nations and 11 other countries (compared to previous ILTMs in Asia, there is 118% increase in buyers from the Indian sub-continent, and also notable growth from Singapore, up 115%, plus Australasia, up 83%, and Hong Kong. In all, over three days there will be 28,829 pre-arranged meetings. Well done to ILTM Portfolio Director [Alison Gilmore](#) and the rest of the ILTM team here.

Every luxury company wants to be – needs to be – in Singapore. At the opening of Singapore Stock Exchange yesterday, Monday, morning, **Kempinski** announced The Capitol Kempinski Hotel Singapore at Capitol Singapore, 157 rooms in a 1903 building, plus residences, highest-end retail and the historic Capitol Theatre • Evolving in the opposite direction, Singapore-based **CEO Olivier Jolivet, Como Hotels & Resorts** might well make more moves into Europe – it already has two London hotels (and what is going to happen to its Met Bar?), and now it is converting an entire Tuscan village, near Siena, into a 30-room hotel with working church, organic farm and, of course, vineyards • **Villa d'Este**, on the shores of Lake Como, goes back even before it was a convent in the mid-15th century – its story includes temporarily being home, at different times, of Caroline of Brunswick, estranged queen of England's King George IV, and Russia's Empress Maria Feodorovna, and, in 1948, Countess Pia Bellentani shot her lover Carlo Sacchi dead during a fashion dinner for 200 of Italy's finest. Today, world connoisseurs come for best food, wines and fitness, which includes hiking near-vertical monuments that another past name, ballerina Vittoria Peluso, wife of a Napoleonic general, Count Domenico Pino, built to stop him feeling homesick for war • Get more history at **Trump International, Washington DC**, French **GM Mickael Damelincourt** – it's the US capital's 1899 post office, and still has many original fittings. The nine-floor open-atrium hosts BLT Prime restaurant by celebrity chef [David Burke](#), and [Ivanka Trump's](#) style shows both in the substantial spa, and in the 263 rooms, smallest size 41 sq m.

The Ty Warner Mansion at **Rosewood's Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Los Cabos**, has, well, everything: 100-metre private pool wrapping around the main floor living, dining and two master bedrooms, all of which can be completely front wall-free – add a rooftop with gym, spa in a decorative paddling pool, a lap-pool with glass base looking down into a bathroom, golf putting, and a four-post bed for sleeping under the stars (maximum guests six, private staff four, worth every peso). Alternatively take one of the 12 new pool villas, also beach-set. MD [Frédéric Vidal](#), who personally designed mansion and villas with owner [Ty Warner](#), has also added a sensational mostly-outdoors Arbor restaurant overlooking the second, Oasis, pool, with inset wild-water river. Do not miss Saturday local-barbeque Barbacoa in the Herb Garden • **Small Luxury Hotels of the World** has 16 properties on its stand, including just-opened **Sukhothai Shanghai** – GM [Marcel Holman](#), 201 keys, design-your-own G&T from 300+ gins.

Cocktails in Bar Rouge on the 71st floor of **Swissôtel Stamford, Singapore**, come with best views in town – open through to 6 a.m., look down at a year-round festive-light collection, far below, of vertical decorations on the adjacent J.W. Marriott South Beach, and turn left to see the floodlit-standing E that is **Marina Bay Sands** (Sydney's [Marcel Hanna's](#) GM of this [I.M. Pei](#)-designed hotel, now **Accor** of course, and guests have access to 15 restaurants and a serious 24/7 gym) • **Accor's One Fine Stay** private residences business adds properties in Melbourne and Sydney, plus Mykonos • Also **Accor, The Savoy, London, a Fairmont-Managed Hotel**, will always be a once-off: GM [Philip Barnes](#) is making life even more convenient for China guests as he has full Alipay facilities (this is the first luxury hotel in London to have this option, and with breakfast congees and other familiar touches, he is confident of quadrupling business from Mainland China in 2019) • **Value Retail's Sylvie Freund Pickavance** says around 80% of Chinese visiting England head for the company's Bicester Village shopping (travel by train, 40 minutes from London to the dedicated Bicester Village station). This is more than a tourist destination, offering such unique brands as Bamford and Smythson – and a Wolseley restaurant opens this July. Value Retail is, like the New York Islanders hockey team, owned by [Scott Malkin](#), who made his name with Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills • It's worth trying to be in **Beverly Hills** at BOLD time, when food trucks and street entertainments enliven the already-vibrant area on Friday and Saturday evenings. BOLD, which stands for Beverly Hills Open Later Days, next takes place August 3-25, 2018. It's an initiative of the City of Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive Committee, and hotels closest to the action are, in alphabetical order, Beverly Wilshire Four Seasons, and Montage Beverly Hills.

When [Paul and Rose Strachan](#) bought the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company they renamed it **Pandaw** – and the newest ship in the 17-strong fleet, RV Sabei Pandaw, sailing from November, will offer ten-night Laos-Mekong itineraries. Also coming up is a once-off 18-night Delta and Coast – All Southern Burma expedition, starting February 28th, 2019 (the programme starts with and Irrawaddy Delta river cruise on a shallow-draft wooden ship and continues, in the ocean-going Andaman Explorer, from the southern Mergui

Archipelago tip of Myanmar to Yangon). All Pandaw vessels also do private charters • Iceland is top of many Virtuoso lists right now – [Grímur Sæmundsen's](#) just-opened 62-room **The Retreat at Blue Lagoon** seems to fit directly into an 800-year old lava flow in Reykjanes UNESCO Geopark • [Andrew Harrison](#), as GM **Four Seasons Langkawi**, was just coming to the end of refurbishing all 90 rooms, to original designer Bill Bensley taste, when he, Harrison, was called back to England (having quickly invested in Barbour all-weather coats and Hunter boots, he has just arrived back in his homeland to be GM of one of England's country-house hotels, Four Seasons Hampshire). Back in Langkawi, his former hotel has a pair of additional three-bedroom garden villas, with pools, and Rhu Ba has been refurbished to become the ultimate sundowner destination • Four Seasons' Dubai-based RVP [Leonardo \(Leo\) Baiocchi](#) has a new Manager at **Four Seasons Dubai DIFC**, [Lorenzo Maraviglia](#) – and don't miss that hotel's stunningly successful [Martin Brudnizki](#) re-do of Mina Brasserie, 120 seats total, does 500 covers some nights (Baiocchi realised the power of social media when he once entertained [Chiara Ferragni](#), 12 million followers, worth \$50 million: locals came up for selfies with her, and, interestingly, The Blonde Salad, as she is called, has named her two-month old son Leo).

Another must-visit is India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands – the latter group are still out of bounds but for the first time the Andamans have a luxury resort, **Taj Exotica Havelock Island** (fly into Port Blair, take a 45-minute ferry and be blown away by stunning beaches, pool and food, and unique villas designed by co-owner [Pramod Ranjan](#)) • **La Réserve Hotels** are now magnificently managed by [Jean-Luc Naret](#), who is also hands-on GM of both La Réserve Paris Hotel and Spa and also La Réserve Paris (the company also includes La Réserve Genève Hotel, Spa and Villas, GM [Alexander Carpentier](#), and La Réserve Ramatuelle Hotel, Spa and Villas, GM [Nicolas Vincent](#)). One of the great joys at the Geneva property, incidentally, is taking the 20-minute complimentary Moscato Privato private yacht shuttle to and from Geneva city-centre (and the knowledgeable try to book the lakeside Villa du Lac, all-wall windows only four metres from the lake, 385 sq m on two floors, three bedrooms and dining for ten) • At **Royal Hotel San Remo**, look out over the Mediterranean – new suites Sissi, 111 sq m, and Aurora, 94 sq m, both have sea view, with two bedrooms with marble bathrooms, large terraces with gazebos, jacuzzis for four, and dining for six. New, too, is an enogastronomic experience, with tastings of olive oil as well as wine.

Marriott's **EDITION** brand, with input from [Ian Schrager](#), is growing fast. In alphabetical order, Abu Dhabi opens later this year, in the Al Bateen area – dining options include a [Tom Aikens](#) steakhouse; Bangkok is scheduled to open late 2018, in Thailand's tallest building, the Maha Nakhon Tower; Barcelona, close to the iconic Picasso Museum, has a year-round rooftop bar with outdoor pool and supper club; London continues to get rave reviews for its Berners Tavern, and Punch Room; Miami Beach is 1950s glamour-vibe, bi-level bungalows with private plunge pools – and [Jean-Georges Vongerichten*](#) food; New York's [Jason Atherton](#) restaurant has a new Michelin star – hotel GM is [Alex Novo](#); New York Times Square also has a new GM, [Bastian Germer](#); Shanghai, in The Bund area, will have 145 rooms, and another [Jason Atherton](#) restaurant. (*If you by any chance have a spare meal here in Singapore, head for Vongerichten food at **Como Dempsey**, a conversion of former army barracks by [Christina Ong](#).)

Jumeirah's new CEO, [Jose Silva](#), came from Four Seasons George V Paris so watch him inject a special style into the Dubai-based company (for a start, [Tony Costa](#), from Mandarin Oriental via Wynn Macau, arrives to run **Burj Al Arab** from June 1st) • Also in Dubai, [Michael Wale](#) is new CEO **Kerzner** • In Hong Kong, **Langham** has a new CEO, [Stefan Leser](#), and its signature London property is finding The Wigmore, its new pub, converted from a bank, has plenty of business – try the best-selling fish and chips, just what you want after hours of shopping in Oxford Street or Regent Street, both only minutes away (also, depending on your hotel suite, get Royal Warrant access, say the cutting rooms and archives of Savile Row tailors Gieves & Hawkes, or the perfumier Floris, or Pink Hunter boots) • **Jing'An Shangri-La West Shanghai**, GM [Marco Vazzoler](#), is retail heaven – Jing An Kerry Centre has international brands, or bargain a buying price with stallholders in Nanjing Road Pedestrian Street. The hotel's Mao Space gallery is a conversion of a wee house Mao lived in a century ago • **Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore's** new GM is [Bipan Kapur](#): new, too, are the redone 503-key Tower Wing, its 250 sq m Grand Suite with mini gym and private spa area, its 24th floor Club Lounge, and a ninth-floor family area with five themed family suites, 19 family-friendly bedrooms and a centralised party – there's also a 2,150 sq m interactive indoor-outdoor play space, Buds by Shangri-La, with soft play through to water play • Shangri-La now runs Mauritius' iconic **Touessrok** (GM is [Gerhard Hecker](#)) – great for weddings, anniversaries and golf • In Sri Lanka, head for **Shangri-La Colombo** (GM [Tim Wright](#)), right on the ocean at Galle Face • **Le Sirenuse** remains the magnet on Italy's Amalfi Coast, and clever owner-GM [Antonio Sersale](#) has opened a namesake Sirenuse restaurant at **Four Seasons at The Surf Club**, in Surfside FL.

Already, business is happening. On Sunday, fresh from The Wedding, Virtuoso's [Albert Herrera](#) headed for a bit of TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) and signed another Virtuoso hotel, the unique, five-week old **Six Senses Duxton** (GM [Murray Aitken](#)): already, global travelistas, and a surprising number of Thai millennial aesthetes, are discovering the charm of [Anouska Hempel](#)-converted shophouse rooms, modern-organic new-look Chinese food, and all in a local-flavour old-Singapore part of town • For flavour of fresh-air Europe, head high above Zurich, with sensational views down to Zürichsee, **Dolder Grand**, MD [Mark Jacob](#), has one of Europe's best in-hotel art collections – its 130-plus artists include such names as Dubuffet and Dali. Stay here, too, for invigorating Swiss air and wellness, a sensational spa and superb food • Oetker Collection's **Brenner's Park Hotel & Spa, Baden Baden**, MD [Frank Marrenbach](#), is a few minutes' walk from the centre of this charming cultural city, which boasts the largest world collection of Gerhard Richter, and a 2,500-seat opera house (as well as a more-usual spa, the hotel has an integral medi-spa, for health checks and more) • In Chengdu, [Kurt Macher](#), GM of **The Temple House**, is constantly adding pop-up art displays – latest is Astromatic, a collaboration with Chengdu's local graffiti hero, Fansack, real name [Fan Pang](#) (is it true he's working with Hermès?). The hotel's MI XUN TEAHOUSE's new menu is 95% vegan-friendly, its bespoke tea flavours change with the seasons – and, says Macher, family travel's becoming huge, plus, on June 9th, 2018, he introduces yoga with your dog.

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