

# Gostelow Report Live

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## SPECIAL REPORT

Shanghai, November 2nd, 2018

Welcome back! After yesterday's meetings and networking, and last night's ILTM China Official Party, there is one more DAY OF OPPORTUNITY.

As *Hurun Report's* charismatic Rupert Hoogewerf shared at Wednesday's Forum, Europe remains top destination for top-end Chinese travellers – and they are prepared to get exactly-bespoke, paying more to save time • **The Dolder Grand Resort** towers over Zurich, Switzerland: from the stunning crescent-shaped hotel, with its wings designed by famous architect Norman Foster, look down at Zurich and its lake, far below. Stay here for learning about, and photographing, over 130 incredible art works by such greats as Henry Moore and Andy Warhol, and for memorable swimming in the indoor pool with all-wall windows looking out, into winter's snow. Also stay for the food. The 54-seat The Restaurant at the Dolder Grand has two Michelin stars and its chef, Heiko Nieder, has his 19th *GaultMillau* point, the highest in Switzerland (he is also *GaultMillau's* chef of the year, and in his honour the hotel's Celebration package adds a ten-course dinner to bed and breakfast). Here in Shanghai meet the hotel's fashion-leader Mariano Tribelhorn, stopping off enroute to an arts-culture dinner in Beijing (Dolder Grand and the new Fauchon Paris, GM Jérôme Montantème, will be the only hotels present).

**Urban Resorts'** CEO Markus Engel, and PuLi GM Thomas Vaucouleur de Ville d'Avray, hosted such a stylish welcome cocktail on Wednesday – oysters and Champagne show typical Urban Resorts style. Engel introduced everyone to its next hotel, RuMa, opening November 30th – a few minutes' walk from KLCC and the Twin Towers, RuMa GM is Guido Farina, and pinnacle of its 253 rooms is the 172 sq m, two-bedroom RuMa Suite. Next up will be The PuXuan Hotel and Spa, Beijing, opening January 1st, 2019 (GM is Mark Wouters). All 116 rooms have all-wall windows – choose a Forbidden City view, ideally a room with access to the PuXuan Club, which comes with unlimited free laundry (all rooms get free pressing, and free minibar drinks). Designers are MQ Studio, Shanghai, and celebrity-special Peter Remedios, with some furnishings by Hermès' ShangXia. Other pluses include 24-hour check-in and check-out, and having Sotheby's Shanghai offices below the hotel.

InterContinental Hong Kong, on the **InterContinental Hotels Group** stand, will revert to Regent once it is renovated (the brand is now 51% owned by IHG). Designers have not yet been chosen but GM Claus Pedersen knows that there will be signature oasis spots, for quiet meditation or chatting with a friend • **Belmond** opens its signature London hotel, Belmond Cadogan, GM Klaus Kabelitz, this December – and, an insider's tip on this company, when in Peru take not only Belmond Hiram Bingham train when going from Cusco to Machu Picchu but, south from Cusco, the superbly stylish Belmond Andean Explorer train (two nights, Cusco-Arequipa, stopping off at Lake Titicaca and its floating villages) • Trains are often the best way of travelling domestically in China, and Japan and Canada. Canada's **Rocky Mountaineer** trains certainly offer the best scenic route between the Pacific coast and the Canadian Rockies. Routes connect Vancouver with the popular mountain resort towns of Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise, offering an iconic Canadian tourism experience with incredible scenery, top-notch service, and glass-dome carriages that Chinese love. In 2019, Rocky Mountaineer has 16 departures that are Mandarin-centric: two-day trips, with full Mandarin service onboard, including storytelling of the passing highlights and Chinese dishes alongside the Western Canadian gourmet meals. The two-day train journeys are being offered by China-based travel agents who package the train with other activities to explore Western Canada • England's biggest boutique-collection, **Bicester Village** – exhibiting with Value Retail - has its own train to transport shoppers from, and back to London (enjoy savings of up to 60%, and there are great restaurants) • Arguably the most-famous boutique street in the USA is Rodeo Drive in the Beverly Hills area of Los Angeles. James Zheng Shanghai Director, **Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board**, cites endless reasons for flying into Los Angeles, and then staying put. Work with The Private Suite for your arrival, for instance: you get a private jet-like experience that cuts immigration waiting lines and hassle. Stay at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills for a truly sumptuous experience. The 13-floor hotel is more like a sleek curvilinear sculpture topped by an outdoor pool, a hotel guest-only herb garden and an umbrella-protected bistro by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, who also does the main restaurant downstairs in this art-and-sculpture 170-room hotel – of its 51 suites, best is the 320 sq m Presidential Suite, on the 12th floor, to give amazing 360-degree balcony views. (Hilton Luxury's Bas de Graaff, here at the show, also says look out for the equally-gorgeous new Waldorf Astoria Bangkok, designed by André Fu.)

Israel extends a hearty welcome to Chinese visitors – the Ministry of Tourism has a Beijing office and there are frequent flights on both El Al and Hainan Airlines (the friendship between the two countries include the fact that China's Bright Foods' portfolio includes not only the globally-popular Weetabix but Israel's Tnuva dairy conglomerate). Katerina Brokhes is here on behalf of **The Mamilla Hotel**, a stylish 194-room Leading property at one end of Jerusalem's most chic shopping arcade, the Mamilla Mall, which leads you direct to The Western Wall and other historic sites. The Mamilla has a Mandarin-speaker to make you feel even more welcome. Katerina, who was born in St Petersburg, Russia, knows every inch, it seems, of beautiful Israel. Come for history but also for sun, sea and experiences. For a typical week-long trip, she recommends three nights in Jerusalem, three nights in edgy, contemporary Tel Aviv, perhaps in its Jaffa district but certainly on the coast, and one night for a desert happening, for example in the rock-like Beresheet luxury hotel on the edge of Beresheet Crater, 2.5 hours' drive south of Tel Aviv.

Around the easy-layout show it is tempting to stop off at **Hyatt, Marriott Luxury brands** or other big exhibitors, but some smaller stands have lots to share. **Purple Ski** is showing its chalets in Courchevel and Meribel, for instance • **St Moritz** offers some of Switzerland's best skiing as well as summer hiking, plus lots of history. Here, at 5,500 ft above sea level in the heart of the Upper Engadin lakes district, winter tourism originated in 1864, at the Kulm Hotel. St Moritz also boasts Switzerland's first ski school and its first electric light and electric tram. So much for the past. Today, the busy programme of events, especially in winter, includes horse polo on ice, conveniently just by the historic Badrutt's Palace hotel, now run by GM Richard Leuenberger. During the winter season, dining options are enhanced by a Martin Brudnizki-designed Matsuhisa, which some say is even superior to Nobu Matsuhisa's other brand, Nobu. You do need, incidentally, to build in several hours' travel time between Zurich and St Moritz, though the destination's regional Engadin Airport is terminus of both the Bernina Express and Glacier Express railways (the former was granted a UNESCO World Heritage accolade in 2008) • **Sintra**, 30 minutes' drive from Lisbon, was classified as a UNESCO site in 1955. This is the

perfect magical place, a gem set between mountains and sea. Portugal's Departamento de Turismo e Cultura specialist, Susana Bulas, says the 15,000 sq ha national park offers special beauty • A perfect base in Lisbon itself is the 282-room **Four Seasons The Ritz**, GM Guilherme Costa. Front-facing rooms look down over Parque Eduardo VII, and you have an 11th floor rooftop running track, and a basement lap pool. The elegant lunch buffet attracts Portuguese business movers and shakers, and the extensive weekend brunch display brings in gourmets who like sushi rolled to order • **Four Seasons George V, Paris**, has a new GM, Jean-Claude Wietzel, and a new spa – of the total 200-room count, one favourite is 824, like a private penthouse.

**Costa Smeralda**, on the Italian island of Sardinia, consists of three separate resorts, 121-room Hotel Cala di Volpe, GM Franco Mulas also heads the entire complex, plus managing 100-room Hotel Romazzino; 66-room Hotel Pitrezza, Manager Maurizio Immacolato. Hotel Cala di Volpe's best suite is the 250 sq m three-bedroom Penthouse Suite, which has 200 sq m of private terrace. Hotel Pitrezza's best suite is the three-bedroom Villa Shardana, with a 200 sq m terrace and private swimming pool – there's also a private swimming pool on the 243 sq m terraces of Hotel Romazzino's five-bedroom Villa Smeralda, Dine around: don't miss Cala di Volpe lunch buffet, which attracts many private yachts to moor here around 1 p.m, and, somehow, drag yourself away from people-watching and devices to make time for Hotel Romazzino's Spa My Blend by Clarins.

Andrea Buxbaum, **Austria's** Market Management China, Japan, South Korea, Arab Countries, merely promises a host of surprises for bon vivants and all those who prefer the more tasteful things in life when in Vienna. **Gostelow Report Live** can, fortunately, fill in a few gaps. For history, stay at the 1892-vintage Hotel Bristol, Luxury Collection – best rooms the Caruso, or Prince of Wales, suites. GM Simone Dulies; the 1873-vintage Hotel Imperial, Luxury Collection, GM Mario Habicher – just a few metres' walk to Musikverein concert hall; the 1876-vintage Hotel Sacher, GM Reiner Heilmann – essential to try, and buy, the world-famous sachertorte chocolate cakes, here • Talking of shopping, Madrid-based giant **El Corte Inglés** now has over 90 stores in both Spain and Portugal (the empire started with a single tailor's shop in Madrid in 1940). To help its Chinese customers, this year El Corte Inglés has added Alipay: use this payment method and you, like other non-EU residents, can benefit from up to 15.7% on all tax-free purchases, no minimum spend, and enjoy the company's ten percent reward programme.

Thailand's **Panviman Group of Resorts** specializes in weddings and honeymoons for the Chinese market. Group GM Surasak Tharapatn says the two properties being highlighted here are Panviman Chiang Mai Spa Resort, famous for architecture that features Northern Lanna arts and, as its name implies, for its spa, and Panviman Resort Koh Phangan, overlooking Thong Nai Pan Noi Bay a destination renowned for its tranquility and natural beauty • The new **Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur** is, says GM Tom Roelens, ready to host top Chinese weddings – the ballroom holds 520. Best suite is the 18th floor three-room Royal Suite, whose 220 sq m include a private gym – the main pool is on a sixth floor outdoor podium. The ground floor hosts a massive Robinson's store and six restaurants and bars include Cantonese food, and a craft beer bar. Other selling points for this 209-room hotel include being adjacent to the lush KLCC park, and only a few metres from the KLCC Twin Towers.

**Trump Hotels** are here in force – they had three top people sitting in the front row of Wednesday's Forum (yesterday, Patricia Tan commented on the high quality of buyers she is finding here at ILTM China). Speak to Prince Sanders, a New York boy who is GM Trump International Hotel & Tower New York – stay there, looking straight down to, and east across, iconic Central Park, and dine at Jean-Georges (Vongerichten). Similarly, in Chicago, Trump International Hotel & Tower, GM Gabriel Constantin, you look straight down at the Chicago River – take a curated boat tour to learn about, and photograph, Chicago's unique historic buildings. Trump International Hotel Washington DC is an 1899 historic building with a tall clock tower: built around an open square, now with a glass roof, the 263-room hotel, MD Mickael Damelin-court, has bedrooms with plush royal blue and gold fittings, There's a Hollywood-style Ivanka Trump spa, and food by celebrity chef David Burke. The nine-floor open atrium offers spectacular selfie opportunities – and as well as traditional historic museums you are just a few minutes' walk from two fun places, the International Spy Museum, which has a whole floor of James Bond immersive memorabilia, and Newseum. Trump is also here featuring its Trump Card® Privileges Program, and properties in Aberdeen, Doonbeg and Turnberry which have golf.

Finally, think of something completely different – the female-managed Chiloe island, 6 kms off the Chile coast. **Nomade's** Benjamin Garcia Cantolla suggests flying there, staying at the luxury Ocio Territorial hotel (co-owned by a MAN) and helping local lady landowners work their fields, and harvest • And now, big thanks to ILTM's Andy Ventris and all the others who have made this first ILTM China such a success. Tonight's **Closing Reception** is back again at The Portman Ritz-Carlton, Shanghai, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. – thank you, GM Tarik Temucin, and see you all there! • And make a note of **the next ILTM China, October 30 – November 1st, 2019**, Shanghai. Meanwhile, **ILTM Cannes** is in just a few weeks, December 3-6, 2018, and among other ILTM-portfolio events is **ILTM Asia Pacific**, May 27-30, 2019, Singapore. See you there! [www.iltm.com](http://www.iltm.com)

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