

Gostelow Report Live

SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 5th, 2018

Martin Rinck, who heads Hilton's luxury and lifestyle brands, chose yesterday breakfast as the time to announce **Waldorf Astoria's** partnership with Aston Martin – yes, roll up to the portfolio's hotels in Amsterdam through to Versailles, via Beijing, Los Angeles and Shanghai, in a James Bond DB2/4 and feel a billion dollars, immediately • Newly-reflagged **Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas**, GM Donald Bowman, is the only casino-free Strip hotel, which makes it an oasis of style: you're welcomed at the 23rd floor lobby by a wall of looks-real gold bullion bars, a Champagne vending machine, and a Softbank humanoid 'concierge' – book ahead for a table at TWIST by Pierre Gagnaire and take the 21 steps up to its glass-walled wine cellar • At **Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills**, Jean-Georges Vongerichten runs the 11th floor rooftop pool-side brasserie and the indoor, ground floor restaurant • The Beverly Hills area is, incidentally, really into rooftop pools. At **Viceroy L'Ermitage** (GM would-be Colombian architect Diego Heredia) shoe-conciergerie is Pasquale Fabrizio, whose founder hand-made shoes for Cary Grant and the Rat Pack – the 300 sq m Presidential Suite has a grand piano • Nearby, both the hideaway **Bel-Air Beverly Hills**, and the opulent **Beverly Hills Hotel** (area MD Ed Mady) have celebrity-magnet ground level pools – at the latter, don't miss the hotel's own-label store, where the iconic massive-palmleaf wallpaper, with baby pink trimmings, even adorns limited-edition must-have bicycles. Both hotels are **Dorchester Collection**, which also has an English trio that offer a perfect getaway – **Coworth Park**, near Windsor, for polo, and a Castle tour, and, in London, across Park Lane from Hyde Park, the classic **Dorchester**, GM Robert Whitfield (reserve now for its Alain Ducasse fine dining) and the trendy-edgy, art-filled **45 Park Lane**, with Wolfgang Puck food: in Rome, **The Eden**, Gm Luca Virgilio, shows Italian charm, with warmth.

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, ILTM coincides with other world events – Alex Furrer, GM of **The Setai Miami Beach**, is back home for Art Basel Miami (his average rate last night was \$2,300, everything extra). There's a sibling, too, also owned by the Nakash jeans brothers: the 150-room **Setai, Tel Aviv**, a brilliant conversion of heritage from the 14th century (terrace-top pool, seemingly cantilevered over the Mediterranean, and the 120 sq m Presidential Suite has all-wall windows giving 270° views over water, new-city and the immediately-adjacent fascinating labyrinth of old Jaffa • Tarun Chopra is author of such tomes as *Palaces of India*, and *Temples of India*, renowned photographer, and friend of the scion of the Oberoi Group, PRS 'Biki' Oberoi; he also runs the delightfully named **Holy Cow Holidays**, with behind-the-scenes tours of India's best • **Taj's** delegation here is led by CEO Puneet Chhatwal: as well as introducing the recently-opened **Taj Exotica, Havelock Island** (part of the Andamans), he's here to show off the relaunch of **Taj Connemara, Chennai**, and talk about forthcoming properties in Rishikesh, Himalayas, and Shimla – he also has a new soft brand, Seleqtions, sic • Zurich's **Dolder Grand Resort**, MD Mark Jacob, is a brand all by itself – memorable curlicue architectural additions by Norman Foster, dozens of priceless art works, including Dali, Dubuffet, Miro, Warhol, Michelin-starred dining, a serious spa with indoor + outdoor pools and, from its pasture-set hilltop position, views down to beautiful Zürichsee. See also **Zurich Tourism**.

Hokkaido Tourism says don't forget Japan, full-stop • **Tokyo Convention and Visitors Bureau**, meanwhile, gears up for the 2020 Olympics. Already some roads have been diverted, and this October the fish market moved four kilometres from Tsukiji to Toyosu, though the famous tuna auction, and the market's many tiny restaurants (freshest sashimi in the world) don't relocate until 2019 • Following the success of **Aman Tokyo**, Aman COO Roland Fasel says expect more announcements on city hotels shortly. He also reveals that 56% of 2018's total company sales comes from under-44 year olds • It's all ages at Istanbul's **Ciragan Palace Kempinski**, GM Ralph Radtke: an Ottoman Palace with 17th century gardens, views over the Bosphorus, 80 metres away (that's Asia, beyond the fascinating always-passing shipping) – and a memorable outdoor pool, water-side, 33 metres, heated year-round to 31°C by heat from a co-generation plant • **JOALI Maldives** opened end October on Raa Atoll: owner Esin Gural Argat, a Turkish glassware queen, stresses sustainability and island-grown produce – 73 villas, designer Autoban, GM Steven Phillips, chef Ashley Goddard • More Maldives. Lars Petrie's Kudadoo, which opened last Saturday, came about because two guests at sister property **Hurawalhi** wanted a 'Robinson Crusoe' experience on a nearby deserted island...and were 'forgotten'! When retrieved, they declared they absolutely loved their island time – Kudadoo's truly all-inclusive, including spa treatments and the drink range has, for instance, seven bubbles, Louis Roederer to Taittinger: with 984 solar panels producing up to 558kw of energy it's the only fully sustainable 5-star private island in the Maldives • In Thailand, **Nai Harn Phuket**, GM Frank Grassmann, has Green Hotel Award's gold level for such initiatives as serving local sustainable foods – and, in rooms, there are low-flow shower heads and Giving Bags to donate clothes to The Phuket Sunshine Village.

The Scherz family continues to invest in **Gstaad Palace**, MD Andrea Scherz – arrive from the rail station in a 1952 Silver Wraith Rolls, ski all day (or swim and hike in summer) and dance the night away at GreenGo, above the indoor pool • Michel Reybier's wide portfolio, which usefully includes his own-label Champagne, plus a cluster of **La Réserve** hotels, headed by Jean-Luc Naret, also GM of **La Réserve Paris**, next to the Elysée Palace – Americans love its two Michelin-star Le Gabriel, and its Nescens spa • Stockholm-based **Nobis Hospitality Group** has properties in Denmark and Sweden – and, Reykjavik-based **Nordic Luxury** covers Greenland, Iceland, the Faroes, Denmark, Sweden and Norway (in Iceland, keep a special look-out for SLH's central-island **Hotel Rangá**: aurora borealis watching, plus owner-GM Friðrik Pálsson has installed two professional NASA-standard telescopes • Greenland is now a favourite destination for **Silversea Cruises**, 66% owned by Royal Caribbean but Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovido remains Chairman: other explorer-type destinations include Galapagos and Antarctica • Ships in **Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection**, CEO Doug Prothero, will have 149 all-terrace suites, designed with flexible air walls to allow suites to 'grow'.

Following the success of its first city hotel, **Six Senses Duxton, Singapore**, **Six Senses**, led by CEO Neil Jacobs, plans other urban properties (New York is on the way). In the gorgeous Portuguese countryside, **Six Senses Douro Valley** GM Nick Yarnell shows wellness and wine are natural soulmates - best rooms 401 and 406, both with terraces over the main courtyard and vineyards • At **Pine Cliffs, Luxury Collection**, MD Thomas Shoen, as its name implies, the 30ha complex is renowned for its cliffs: go down to the beach by elevator, or get an extra workout by taking 80 wood stairs and then a long boardwalk with an additional 112 shallow steps • Across the border in Spain, the 220ha **Finca Cortesin**, GM Rene Zimmer, also has a stunning beach, a short shuttle away – the main resort has Europe's longest golf course, the 7,439-metre Par-72 Cabell Robinson, gardens, indoor+outdoor pools, Italian, Japanese and Spanish cuisine (and 67 rooms plus four, four-room villas) • At **One Aldwych London**, MD Simon Hirst, there's

Basque cuisine at Atxa and you'd-never-know-it, dairy-free at Indigo (favourite rooms in this historic wedge-shaped building face south across Waterloo Bridge - #410 has a private gym) • Head north to Yorkshire, renowned for hills and valleys, and Yorkshire pudding popovers to accompany finest roast beef: [Tim Barber](#) and [Lyndsey Thomas](#)' **Real Yorkshire** can plan your trip.

Urban Resorts, based in Shanghai, are masterminded by [Marcus Engel](#). **The PuLi**, in that city, has been a globalist's favourite for some time: now siblings arrive. The 160-room **PuShang, Xiamen** – the next Hawaii of China, says Engel – opened this October, and Kuala Lumpur's **The RuMa**, handy for the Twin Towers, opened November 30th. In Beijing, the 116-room **PuXuan**, an [Ole Scheeren](#) building, opens January 1st – it's above, and integral with, Guardian Auction and Sotheby's headquarters, and right next to the Forbidden City • **Bulgari Hotel Beijing**, GM [Antonio Saponara](#), has in its first year also proved to be a true urban resort, and oasis. Premium of the 119 rooms is the 380 sq m Bulgari Suite, but everywhere there are light wood floors, masses of space and views over leafy Sanlitun, and, about 20 metres away, the Liangma River (the hotel's part of a Genesis complex, which also includes Genesis headquarters, and a [Tadao Ando](#)-designed gallery of contemporary Chinese art, opening 2019) • The 47-floor **Bulgari Hotel Shanghai**, GM [Vincent Billiard](#), is three blocks from the Huangpu River, on the Puxi side: it's anchored by ground-floor Bulgari retail, and an adjacent heritage events space, the 1913-vintage Chinese Chamber of Commerce – try the elegant Bao Li Xuan restaurant there, or, in the main 120-room hotel, Il Ristorante [Niko Romito](#), as in the Beijing and Dubai Bulgari • And, across the river in Pudong, **Grand Kempinski**, GM [Rüdiger Hollweg](#), is delightfully personal for a 682-room hotel: it has great Chinese, Italian and Spanish dining (best rooms access the 30th floor Club).

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at Nile Plaza, GM [Dimitrios Zarikos](#), on the river's east bank, offers outstanding sunset views. Highlights of the hotel include first-class Italian at Bella restaurant, a great spa and the LifeFitness gym's all-wall windows allowing you to look over the Nile as you burn calories. The hotel leads right into the Beymen Mall, with 50 high-end boutiques • Budapest's **Four Seasons Gresham Palace** has unique history: built in 1906 by Gresham Life Assurance it somehow survived, if temporarily scarred, two World Wars and the 1956 Uprising – today, the 179-room beauty, run by [Yves Giacometti](#), has a palatial lobby, stunning spa and indoor pool and a quintessential Hungarian brasserie, Kollazs, where the city's top decision-makers congregate – (most-favoured bedrooms face the Danube's iconic Chain Bridge, designed by William Tierney Clarke in 1839) • **Hungarian Tourism** promotes the capital and its two towns, Buda and Pest, the largest synagogue in Europe, vineyards, monthly markets in Elizabeth Park Danube river cruises – and the fact you are only 2.5 hours by train from Vienna • **Hotel Bristol Vienna**, an 1892-vintage Luxury Collection hotel on the city's Kärntner Ring, has magically turned a basement events spaces into what seems, through clever lighting, to have views of formal gardens: the hotel is related through ownership to the Gurtler family's 1876-vintage **Hotel Sacher Wien** (GM [Reiner Heilmann](#), best rooms are rooftop, Rochon designs) – both hotels, 50 metres apart, are across the road from the Opera House • Is it true, incidentally, that some of The Sacher's design was inspired by the **The Langham London**, built in 1797 a stone's throw north of Oxford Circus for Sir James Langham? Today the 380-room hotel, GM [Bob van den Oord](#), has one of Europe's best club lounges (think books, live cooking) – there's integral, authentic pub, The Wigmore, and at the slightly more refined Artesian restaurant try its carved-to-order cold cuts, with superb mixologists at the elegant Artesian cocktail lounge.

Swire Hotels' [Chrissie Lincoln](#) and Hong Kong's **Upper House** GM, [Marcel Thoma](#), hosted a memorable pre-ILTM meet-people open house last Sunday (is it true **Wilderness Safaris**, plus two others, got stuck in an elevator-meant-for-one?) • **Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana**, GM [Xavier Destribats](#), is meeting place for global travellers who want the best – centre-city, rooftop pool with bar, an eight-room Resense Spa, a cigar lounge with six balconies, each sponsored by a different cigar company • Once again [José Silva](#) has a luxury yacht for ILTM entertaining - two weeks ago, back in Dubai, the CEO **Jumeirah** accepted the top Ultratravel award from [Mike Tindall](#) and [Zara Phillips](#), for **Burj Al Arab** (MD [Tony Costa](#)), best world hotel for the 12th year running. The Burj has a new wind-free outdoor events space, plus a camel visits for great selfies - 40% of Burj guests are repeats, staying an average seven nights • In the Maldives, **Jumeirah Vittaveli**, GM [Amit Majumder](#), extends all its ocean suites with bigger outdoor decks, overwater hammocks and a second bedroom – there's also an ice-skating rink • **St Regis Beijing** (GM [Richard Deutl](#)) serves fondue at its ice rink, with skating servers: there's a new nightclub, Kings Social House, with DJ curators and [Jason Atherton](#) food: MAC Cosmetics is partnering in a pop-up Champagne and make-up studio – and if that is not enough, New Year's Eve will be a Jules Verne-themed Palace Under The Sea • At the Michael Graves-designed **Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach**, which has a 2,000 sq m oceanfront Sky Deck, all 290 keys are suites, but the premium is the 152 sq m Penthouse Suite #2403 (hotel GM is [Chintan Dadhich](#)).

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