

Gostelow Report Live

SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 6th, 2018

What are the **highlights of this year's ILTM**? The sheer size, with over 5,000 in all in town specially. The glorious weather – pity all those returning to colder climes. Monday's brilliant Forum, so suitably themed for health and wellness: we all now know that, for posture-prosperity, we need to sit right, and move constantly, and to live to our next century eat beans and plants, and network. And how about Geoffrey Gelardi's reaction to receiving the third annual **Mary Gostelow Award** from last year's winner, **Virtuoso** Chairman Matthew Upchurch, who said later that the impact Gelardi has had on him personally, on his organization and the industry, with his humanity, says it all (Virtuoso, by the way, had 349 of its advisors here this year: post show, they compare notes on new suppliers they have met and, where it seems appropriate, Virtuoso then follows up to vet for potential new members).

Kerzner, under new President/CEO Michael Wale, shows the stand-alone **Mazargan**, on Morocco's Atlantic Coast, plus its Atlantis and One&Only brands. In the Maldives, **One&Only Reethi Rah**, under new GM Jan Tibaldi, has a magnificent 420 sq m Grand Sunset Suite, private beach (40 of the 130 rooms, smallest size 135 sq m, have private pools) – fitness includes a seven-metre climbing wall • At Mauritius' 143-key **One&Only Le St Géran**, Niçoise GM Charles De Foucault, who seems to know all 543 employees by name, enhancements include new empathetically tasteful suites (add a neighbouring room, to sleep six) and an entire family-area peninsula, with enormous C-shaped pool that wraps around La Pointe casual dining – also, part of the former golf course, which will also have residences for sale, is now a comprehensive Club One, with mini golf, a teens' room with DJ, and serious fitness, sweat and yoga studios • Kerzner's newest resort is the 22-room **One&Only Nyungwe House**, GM Deo Kamurase, at the foothills of the Virunga Volcano Range – talk to the **Rwanda Development Board** for more information on this growing destination.

Portugal's top names lead the way in making this country a true luxury destination, with depth. **Six Senses Douro Valley** shows that wellness and wine are natural bedmates (GM Nick Yarnell, best rooms 401 and 406, both with terraces over the main courtyard and vineyards) • At **Pine Cliffs, Luxury Collection**, MD Thomas Shoen, one of the many preferred room categories is a seaview Junior Suite – two-room #401 Ocean Suite, is closest to the sea. The 30ha complex is renowned for its cliffs: go down to the beach by elevator, or get extra workout via 80 wood stairs and then a long boardwalk plus 112 shallow steps • Across the border in Mediterranean Spain, the 220ha **Finca Cortesin**, GM René Zimmer, also has a stunning beach, a short shuttle away – you have Europe's longest golf course, the 7,439-metre Par-72 Cabell Robinson, plus relaxing gardens, indoor-outdoor pools, Italian, Japanese and Spanish cuisine • At **Oetker Collection**, CEO Frank Marrenbach, **Jumby Bay, Antigua**, re-opens under new MD Sandro Fabris (**Eden Rock St Barth's** re-opens November 2019); **Le Bristol Paris** has new décor, by Oetker daughter, Birgit Douglas. Bristol MD Luca Allegri adds a pop-up night club – and at **Brenners Park, Baden-Baden**, there's a Fritz & Felix restaurant (again Birgit Douglas), and the integral Villa Stéphanie is increasingly considered Europe's leading medical spa. In addition, **Masterpiece Estates by Oetker Collection** offers significant fully-staffed castles and stately homes for short-term stays • Travel further afield: **Ponant**, owned by the Pinault family's Artemis, has Easter Island in its Oceania catalogue, plus French Polynesia and Hawaii – dynamo Edie Rodriguez leads Ponant's US push • More on French Polynesia? See **Tahiti Islands Travel**.

What's new? The word 'millennial' hardly occurs this year • Think kids, who love elevator operators and now Taj's **New York Pierre** turns elevator operators into a marketing plus – they're featured on the hotel's site, and new hotel guests are introduced on arrival. GM François Luigi now has Upper East Side culinarian Suzanne Latapie, ex-Bistro Chat Noir, at Perrine, already a real, and busy, neighbourhood restaurant • **Out of the Blue Capsis Elite Resort**, Crete, GM Nikos Anastasakis (who has been in this role for 20 years) has three themed 'escape rooms' for youngsters 12 and up, say a Circus room, with optical illusions; Inception, with intricate riddles and puzzles - families have a great time working in teams, usually four to six players, trying to solve each challenge within an hour. The rooms are language-agnostic, suitable for any nationality • Thinking multi-generations? **Elite States Diamond** offers accommodations in Mykonos Town – the largest villa, The Paradise Estate, can sleep 36. Housekeeping, pool and garden maintenance, and airport welcome, are included in the rate, and other services are unlimited: if you want it, they can do it, from personal training to cheffing, to round-the-clock security through to curated horseback riding • Take a whole island: **Sweet Bocas, Panama**, is a 15-acre private island seven-room, 2,000 sq ft Panamanian teak villa with entertainment room, gym and yoga studio, all cantilevered over-water. Owner, former Montreal restaurateur Annick Belanger has filled the villa with souvenirs of world travel, and she gives a portion of all bookings to the local Bocas del Toro Give & Surf charity • At **Ritz-Carlton Hotel de la Paix, Geneva**, GM Guillaume Benezech, take the historic (well, 1856-vintage) hotel's slipper yacht out on the lake, and then enjoy some of Europe's best seafood at its Danish-style Fiske Bar • Hideaways in cities are a case of once-found, be loyal – the 85-key **Hari, London Belgravia**, GM Andrew Coney, has 33% repeaters, who love personalised service, the mezzanine speakeasy (ideally for girlie-talk, without interruption) and proximity to Harrods, Harvey Nichols and Sloane Street boutiques • The CDL-owned London Grosvenor Square hotel that is listed in the official catalogue as Leng's will in fact be called **The Biltmore Grosvenor Square, Mayfair, London** (part of the Leng's Collection): it opens March 2019, 308 keys, designer Goddard Littlefair.

Rocco Forte Hotels' 2019 openings include, in May, Puglia's **Masseria Torre Maizza** and, in Rome, re-opening of **Hotel de la Ville**, the long-time 'InterCon' at the top of the 132-step Spanish Steps • Down below, in via Monte D'Oro, **JK Place Roma**, GM Samuel Porreca, continues to attract the arts-entertainment crowd, plus retail addicts: sensational books, chosen by owner Ori Kafri • Look out for *Four Seasons: The Art of Hospitality*, Assouline: **Four Seasons'** Global President Christian Clerc showed it off Tuesday, proud that it is based on unsolicited comments by company employees (we have great buildings but it is our people who make it special, he says) • **Rosewood Hong Kong**, MD Marc Brugger, opens March 17th, 2019: it too has an Assouline book, *Hong Kong: Heritage, Art & Dream* - rooms, 53 sq m up, and a pair of 57th floor signature suites, 1,000 sq m Garden House, and Harbour House, both with gyms and lap-pool terraces) • Undisputedly Miami Beach's most cultured hotel, **The Betsy South Beach** has permanent libraries and art displays, plus one-off poetry readings and literary events. Now extended to 62 keys, best rooms face across Ocean Drive and the park to the Atlantic (one favourite suite, 314, 65 sq m, has Fortuny Sheherazade chandeliers) • **Swire Hotels'** contingent here is EAST Miami (its fifth floor Quinto La Huella is a sibling of Uruguay's top beach restaurant) and the House Collective: Hong Kong's **Upper House**, GM Marcel Thoma, is eternally top-choice of many, thanks to André Fu's soothing soft-avocado interiors, the 49th floor Café Gray Deluxe that is meeting place for global A-listers when in town (it's above Pacific Place mall) • Talking of shopping, **Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana** is named for what was, in 1894, the Cuban capital's first arcade. This is, frankly, the only really modern place to stay in Havana, and it is so central you can walk to many of the top tourist

sites. GM [Xavier Destribats](#) has made sure the 246-room hotel, in the shell of an 1894 building, perfectly exhibits what today's luxury travellers want – a rooftop pool with bar, an eight-room Resense Spa, Cuban and international restaurants, and a cigar lounge with six balconies, each sponsored by a different cigar company.

IHG creatively turned The Carlton's over-Corniche event space into a new-look **Regent** room, Tuesday night: IHG CMO [Claire Bennett](#) hosted a pop-up dinner, with luxury panel discussion compèred by ex-*Travel+Leisure* guru [Nathan Lump](#) (head of London's New West End Company, [Katie Thomas](#), said her 600 members are doing better than ever, surrounded by general retail decline) • By next ILTM Cannes, **InterContinental Carlton**, GM [Giuseppe Vincelli](#), may well have finished its permanent new look • **InterContinental London**, GM [Alvaro Rey](#), is about to start its refurbishment: best rooms access the Club Lounge, looking at the largest bronze statue in England, the 1912-vintage Quadriga (at its opening the architect Decimus Burton hosted dinner for eight in the hollow of one of the horse's bodies) • **Mandarin Oriental London**, GM [Amanda Hyndman](#), re-opened restaurants, Bar Boulud, DINNER by [Heston Blumenthal](#), and the Rosebery Room, this Tuesday, and she's taking advance reservations for her [Joyce Wang](#)-designed bedrooms • Many London Mayfair notables love **The Connaught**, GM [Max Binda](#), for its [Hélène Darroze](#) and [Jean-Georges Vongerichten](#) restaurants, its Aman spa its 285 sq m, two-room David Collins rooftop apartment, and for its thoughtfulness in uniquely putting its annual Christmas sculpture-tree (this year by [Michael Craig-Martin](#)) outside, next to the Carlos Place [Tadao Ando](#) decorative pool, for the community to share • **Park Hyatt Tokyo** (Cannes-born GM, [Hervé Mazella](#)) similarly remains a pinnacle of style: art everywhere, including whimsical animal sculptures in elevators ([Mieko Yuki](#)), Girandole has 144 Vera Mercer black-white café photos and, in the 52nd floor New York Grill, which has 1,600 Californian wines, enormous [Valerio Adami](#) New York paintings • **Wine Paths** web platform winepaths.com has over 275 partners, wineries, distilleries, boutique hotels, restaurants and DMCs, in 13 countries • **Seoul Park Hyatt's** re-imagined Timberhouse pub mostly sells beverages (top is Suntory Premium Malt) but preferred edible snack is tteok-bboki, stir-fried rice cake, blended with eggs, fish, pork skin • **The Peninsula Hong Kong** offers such pairings, by Felix chef [Juan Gomez](#) and mixologist [Marko Petrovic](#), as wagyu katcu sandwiches (deep-fried capers, deep-fried onion and mango mayo on white toast) with Touthé, namely Calvados, Lillet chamomile-infused, lemon juice, cider cordial, egg white and olive oil • [Didier and Olivia Le Calvez](#) have nurtured **Château Clarisse St-Emilion**, named for their first daughter – now, to add to the wine, and their Ile de Ré hotels (nine-room **Villa Clarisse** and 10-room **Hôtel de Toiras**) they expand into **Heloise's Choice**, named for their second daughter - a representation company for family-owned hotels, maximum 45 keys.

Tonight's closing party is at **Hôtel Martinez**, GM [Alessandro Cresto](#), now part of Hyatt's Unbound Collection (what's the betting it'll once again be Taittinger, which owned the La Croisette beauty for many years?). At the stunning and totally opulent Rochon re-do of the 1929-vintage, 409-room hotel - which always opens the Cannes Film Festival - favourite rooms, not surprisingly, are south-facing, over the beach • For Turks & Caicos beaches, think **Grace Bay Club**, led by COO [Nikheel Advani](#): Dubai's oasis-resort, **Park Hyatt Dubai**, GM [Federico Mantoani](#), this month adds a 110-metre sandy beach, stretching into Dubai Creek: ideal for kids, this play area means the quiet palm-tree flanked main pool becomes more adult-only • And what about East Africa? 60-room **Zuri Zanzibar** has 300 metres of beach, plus 300 employees owner RSJ Investment also owns DOX Prague Centre for Contemporary Art, plus Prague's Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, and *Blue Paper* fashion-culture magazine • What about 2019? China's top destination for highest-spending Israelis, says **Privilege Tours'** [Yaniv Steinberg](#) • Golf enthusiasts will flock to **Inn at Perry Cabin** – as of 1/1, **Preferred** (OH so welcoming, says MD [Michael Hoffmann](#)): the new Pete Dye course has simulators offering 800+ global courses, and [Jim McLean's](#) coaching) • Come tomorrow, and ILTM's over, [Jason Herthel](#), President/COO **Montage International**, is heading for Tuscany – will we see announcement of the Irvine CA-based company taking Italy by storm? When he joined the company eight years ago there were three hotels. Now there are two brands, Montage and Pendry, eight hotels open and, already, nine more to come • Yes, ILTM enthusiasts scatter worldwide – **Virtuoso's** [Albert Herrera](#) is off for Christmas in Tel Aviv (**David Inter-Continental** has a new NoMi restaurant, by [Yoram Nitzan](#), from Mul Yam seafood restaurant) • Well done [Alison Gilmore](#) and your lovely team. Now, mark all 2019 ILTM events, including **ILTM Cannes, December 2-5, 2019, see you there!**

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