

Gostelow Report Live

SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 4th, 2019

One of the most exciting parts of this – well, non-stop worthwhile excitement – show is ‘**The Retreat**’. This unique showcase for Health and Wellness brands is Alison Gilmore’s vision to ensure the sector is highlighted at every ILTM event. Alison has been a yoga addict forever, but last year the catalyst into expanding the feel-better concept was the natural health believer Dr James Mercola’s *Game Changer* documentary. She also minutely listened to the industry. As a result of all this, you will at the Retreat this year see such leading companies as **Canyon Ranch**, **Hyatt** (which owns Miraval), **SHA Wellness** and **Six Senses** and many more.

Luxury travel needs to enable all stakeholders to feel, and be, better. This side of the luxury travel experience is evolving so fast: **Six Senses**’ CEO Neil Jacobs finds, for instance, that wellness and sustainability are becoming increasingly intertwined. New at **Six Sense Ninh Bay, Vietnam**, (GM Andrew Whiffen) is a three-bedroom Water Retreat, at the water’s edge on dramatic rock formations of a private bay, 900sq m: you get a dedicated GEM, no not a koh-i-noor to hang round your neck, guys, but a personal Guest Experience Maker, to do whatever you want, within reason • **Six Senses Zil Pasyon** in The Seychelles, adds a 1,416 sq m, four-bedroom residence perched on one of the highest points of Félicité Island – it offers almost 360-degree views of the Indian Ocean, Félicité and its surrounding islands, and you have a 92sq m infinity pool • **Six Senses New York** will be opened, September 2020, by GM Dant Hirsch, who has moved from The Dominick, formerly Trump Soho: Six Senses New York, at 10th Avenue between 17 and 18th Streets, will have 141 keys, and a private members’ club (PMC).

InterContinental Carlton, Cannes, has been given a new lease of life under stylish GM Giuseppe Vincelli, with Qatar’s much-appreciated financial backing – in January, a gradual but complete hundreds-of-million look-for-the-2020s begins, designer Tristan Auer: expect, also, a spacious and formal garden with an 18-metre outdoor pool, heated year-round • Currently closed, **Jumeirah Carlton Tower, London**, under new GM Aaron Kaupp (who also heads Europe for Jumeirah), is undergoing a complete new look by designers Studio 1508: the 186-room hotel is scheduled for Spring 2020 re-opening. Jumeirah CEO José Silva is here in Cannes: he’s hosting, Silva style, on one of the super-yachts moored almost next to the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès.

On Monday Jose Silva announced that **Jumeirah** will be managing the 68-key Capri Palace, Italy, to be known after re-opening as **Capri Palace Jumeirah**. The hotel is owned by Tonino Cacace, whose family has had it since the 19th century, and it is run by Ermanno Zanini, formerly at Four Seasons Milano • In The Maldives, **Jumeirah Vittaveli**, 20-minutes by catamaran from Male airport, has the islands’ only ice rink, and this September it added an 85-ft super-yacht, MY Vittaveli: new for 2020 will be three additional three-bedroom villas and five extra two-bedrooms villas. Over the 2019 festive season Jumeirah Vittaveli’s GM Abhijit Ghosh is bringing holistic practitioner Isaac Vidjirakou to Talise Spa to share his range of practical techniques to encourage mindfulness and wellbeing in everyday life including masterclasses in Breathing, Meditation and Yoga, as well as his signature Saki Massage • And while we are on the subject of islands, **COMO Parrot Cay, Turks & Caicos** re-opened 1st October with two additional two-bedroom beach houses and an adult-only pool • At 50-room **COMO Castello del Nero, Tuscany**, there are Paola Navone interiors, and Michelin dining at La Torre by Giovanni Luca Di Pirro.

Doing good: **Wa Ale**, a 14-villa eco-resort private island off both Myanmar and Thailand, has some of the most exquisite diving areas. Wa Ale is owned by philanthropist Chris Kingsley, and 20% of income goes to the Lampi Foundation, which he founded with his wife Farina: the Foundation supports social welfare and conservation projects in and around the Lampi Marine National Park in the Myeik Archipelago – already, it has successfully combatted illegal and polluting fishing boats in

the area, supported a local midwife in setting up her own practice on a neighbouring island, put more than 8,000 baby sea turtles back into the ocean, and much more.

Francesco Galli Zugaro has single-handedly put **Aqua Expeditions** on the global luxury exploring map. His sensational hotel-look vessels, with outstanding restaurants aboard, have taken travellers up and down the Peruvian Amazon and the Mekong, between Cambodia and Vietnam. Always ahead of the boating game, Zugaro has now extended to Indonesian waters. With a considerable dose of advice from that unique entrepreneur Jason Friedman – he who ran **Four Seasons Tented Camp** and he whose talents now include advising Bill Bensley and **Shinta Mani** - Aqua Expeditions now also offers a proper seagoing yacht, Aqua Blu. Check it for those who want to cruise, say, around the Komodo Archipelago • Cruise companies, by the way, are locking into loyalty inducements, fast. **Seabourn Club Referral Rewards** programme now offers both the referring club member and a first-time guest shipboard credits of US\$250 per suite (this can be combined with some of the 60+ other Seabourn shipboard credit redemptions).

Once you had successfully navigated an intimate elevator followed by a treacherous spiral staircase, **Shangri-La's** COO Oliver Bonke hosted a great rooftop cocktail that presented food from Europe as well as Asia (loved those prawn dumpling buns!). New **Shangri-La at The Shard, London**, GM Kurt Macher, was extolling how easy it is to get dog-sitters in the English capital – he recently flew back to Chengdu personally to escort his animals, in-cabin on KLM. This hotel is luxury-lovers' go-to place for anniversaries – all rooms, from the 35th floor up, have stunning views, some right down to the Thames, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. Don't miss walking around Bermondsey's edgy boutiques and restaurants, plus a private gin tasting at Bermondsey Distillery. Hotel mixologist Marco Corallo, manager of the hotel's 52nd floor GONG bar, hosts a GONG pop-up on the Shangri-La stand.

IHCL - better known as **Taj** - announces new 2020 hotel openings. These include, in the spiritual capital of Andhra Pradesh, the 106-key **Taj Tirupati** (GM VK Prasad); the 63-key **Devi Ratan** (GM Jalpreet Singh Sodhi); a **SeleQtions** hotel in the newly anointed UNESCO city of Jaipur, and a 200-key **Taj Jumeirah Lake Tower, Dubai** (GM Stephen Meredith). The company has also recently launched a new and distinctive brand - **Amā Stays & Trails**, India's first branded homestay product. Heritage villas are now open in Candolim, Goa with additional openings in the pipeline including two bungalows in Maharashtra, two in Kerala and one each in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. **Taj Safaris'** 'Walk with the Pardhis' is a pioneering new nature trek at Pashan Garh, with members of the local Pardhi tribe in Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh.

Amanyangyun – aman+nourishing cloud – adds yet another unique offering to the Aman portfolio. 20 years ago young entrepreneur Ma Dadong rescued, from Liao Fang reservoir in Jianxi Province, 10,000 due-to-be-submerged mature camphor trees and 13 stone mansions dating back 300-500 years to the Ming and Qing dynasties. He had all these painstakingly shipped 1,000km to 48ha land he already owned 30km outside Shanghai. With modern Kerry Hill-designed villas, there are now 67 keys, plus good fitness and a 10-room spa, and Jianxi/Cantonese, Italian, Japanese and international restaurants, and six 'studios', or elegant classrooms, to learn calligraphy and the art of tea (a tip, reserve plenty of time for just wandering the enormous and soothing grounds, or take a boat on the lake) • All Aman's private jet journeys are organised by Catherine Heald of **Remote Lands**, and she personally escorts each trip: eight couples, each with their own car for ground transport – Catherine introduces participants to such dinner companions as Andrew Wu, President Greater China, LVMH • Finally, details emerge of the tented camp that opens 1st April 2020 alongside, or rather five minutes' drive from, **Amangiri**, in Utah's stunningly barren desert. **Camp Sarika**, with tents all made of at least 400sq m of canvas and Douglas fir, has underground-fed utilities to give luxury in nature a new meaning (all ten tents have plunge pools, and there is a communal heated pool). As well as Camp Sarika's own restaurant, there is full signing at Amangiri. Tent room rates run from \$3,500 • There is a tented camp, too, added to **Nayara Springs**, the adult-only resort in the foothills of Costa Rica's Arenal volcano. Leo Ghitis'

62-acre rainforest development adds luxury tents costing from \$1,200 per night (rates at the original Nayara Springs start at \$850).

Oetker Collection re-opened **Eden Rock, St Barth's**, on 20 November: the former restaurant space has evolved into three spa treatment suites (don't worry, Martin Brudnizki has designed another restaurant for Jean-Georges Vongerichten!). Oetker Collection sees two of its other gorgeous properties, both seasonal, attain Palais status, the Winter-wonderland **L'Apogee in Courchevel** and the Summertime **Château Saint-Martin & Spa in Vence** • Want assistance elsewhere on St Barth's? Talk to Vann Corvellac of international entrepreneur Dussol David's Ideal Group for any of your pre- or during-stay needs • At **Il Sereno St Barth's**, the spa adds Valmont products, and there's a new Ristorante Al Mare, chef Raffaele Lenzi. At the **Lake Como Il Sereno**, which also has Valmont spa products, 12 additional suites, including a penthouse, all designed by Patricia Urquiola, come online in 2020, plus the resort's lake boats switch to electric (also, Michelin-starred Berton Al Lago adds a seven-course vegetarian tasting menu).

Craig Reid is CEO of **Auberge**, making its first appearance at ILTM. Auberge is busily absorbing the hotels it has added following the demise of the Logothetis family's Grace Hotels. In addition, Auberge has this year opened **The Lodge at Blue Sky** in Park City UT, and finished its multi-million dollar renovation of **Malliouhana, Anguilla**: scheduled for 2020 are Austin TX, Santa Fe NM and Hawaii (the 333-key **Mauna Lani**, GM Sanjiv Hulugalle), and the re-opening of **Mukul, Nicaragua** • Experiences abound: **La Terre Blanche** adds visits to Château d'Esclans, home of the Whispering Angel rosé with which Alexis Lichine's son Sacha Lichine has so brilliantly, and financially successfully, convinced American connoisseurs that rosé wines are not all dubious 'blush': La Terre Blanche can also offer perfume classes at Clos de Callian, supplier to Parfums Christian Dior.

Rosewood's just-announced Limited Edition experiences are truly over the top: customizing a vintage Jaguar-E type with Tristan Auer and Loro Piana, in Paris (the car has already been granted a coveted slot in the 2021 Chantilly Concours): designing a retail luggage line with Métier London, in London; designing Miron Crosby cowboy boots, in Dallas; volunteering to clean Thailand's beaches, in Bangkok • Rosewood has a powerful lineup of GMs – sorry, MDs – here at ILTM: in alphabetical order, the stars are Michael Bonsor, London; Ed Brea, Yangon; Thomas Harlander, Bangkok; Sascha Hemmann, Bermuda; Luigi Romaniello, Abu Dhabi, Frédéric Vidal, Los Cabos. **Rosewood Hong Kong**, opened March 2019, is best described as a 'vertical estate' designed by Tony Chi (its just-opened Asaya dining space, integral with Asaya Spa, brilliantly shows how healthy, but normal, eating and drinking can be part and parcel of wellness).

Rosewood Little Dix Bay re-opens January 2020 following a four-year closure. **Rosewood Yangon**, opening 14 November 2020, is a 205-room conversion of the city's 1927-vintage New Law Courts. Company-wide, Rosewood is also pushing its beaches, specifically at Rosewood Miramar Beach, Montecito CA; Rosewood Bermuda; Rosewood Baha Mar, Bahamas; Rosewood Little Dix Bay, BVI; Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Los Cabos; Rosewood Mayakoba, Riviera Maya; Rosewood Phuket, and Rosewood Sanya.

Memo for 2020 (again): bring twice as many business cards and leave the Louboutins behind....

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