

## Special Advertising Feature

Custom  
Content  
from **WSJ**

# Hot Hotels '24



This year is set to have a bumper crop of new openings for all kinds of travelers. **Sarah Miller** went to ILTM, the industry's leading travel fair, to get the lowdown

The end of 2023 saw a flurry of luxury hotel openings: Raffles London at The OWO, The Peninsula London, and Mondrian Bordeaux Les Carmes in French wine country. COMO Alpina Dolomites launched in Italy while COMO Metropolitan Singapore, a new flagship wellness and lifestyle destination, officially opened its doors. EDITION also opened in Singapore and Mexico, with Tokyo slated for January. Rosewood Hotels & Resorts opened its first New Zealand resorts—Rosewood Kauri Cliffs, Rosewood Cape Kidnappers and Rosewood Matakauri.

In Buenos Aires, Casa Lucia is the first Único hotel to open outside Spain and Casablanca's first luxury hotel, a 1952 landmark building, is reborn as the Royal Mansour. Conrad Singapore Orchard fuses "conscientious luxury" with nature. InterContinental Auckland opens on the city's waterfront as part of a new billion-dollar mixed-use development. The Lux Collective's first East Africa resort, LUX\* Marijani opens in Zanzibar. February sees the long-anticipated opening of The Lana in Dubai, The Dorchester

In Bahrain, the Conrad Bahrain Financial Harbour has an exceptional location in the city's business and residential district. Further East, Raffles Jaipur opens with 50 intimate suites. In Shanghai, the Regent Shanghai on the Bund will be a riverside retreat. Nineteenth-century grandeur prevails at Anantara Palais Hansen Vienna Hotel, a listed former palace built in 1873. Beyond Bali, T'AKTANA, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, opens on Flores, Indonesia.

getaway don't miss the opening of Six Senses La Sagesse, Grenada and for a mix of business and leisure, the InterContinental San Antonio opens in Texas and if you happen to be in Taiwan check out the new InterContinental Taichung. Closer to home, the Regent Santa Monica opens just steps away from the famed Santa Monica Pier. Sybarites can swim in the Turks & Caicos's first-manmade lagoon by staying at Grace Bay Resort's South Bank, a hybrid residential resort/marina.

## ~ Winter ~

The big destination of 2024 is Kenya, according to tour operator Scott Dunn, but one to watch is Saudi Arabia, where upscale eco lodge Dar Tantora opens in AIUla Old Town; and don't miss The Chedi Hegra, a 33-room boutique property at the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hegra. Spain's celebrated SHA Wellness Clinic opens in Mexico and Four Seasons, Cabo San Lucas opens on the south coast of Baja peninsula.



Hegra, AIUla, Saudi Arabia

*Holidays that target both physical and mental wellbeing will continue to grow. New to the Spa at Mandarin Oriental Mayfair are a range of short 22-minute result-driven bihacking treatments—ideal for busy schedules.*

**Susanne Hatje,**  
GM of Mandarin Oriental Mayfair, London

Collection's first property in the Middle East. Also, after a four-year hiatus, Eastern & Oriental Express, A Belmond Train, Southeast Asia will return to the rails in February. For a truly personalized stay, the eagerly awaited Soneva Secret features 14 exclusive beach and overwater villas, including some accessible only by boat and one floating villa. And Aman Resorts' new sibling brand Janu will open its first property in Tokyo's dynamic new urban village, the only hotel in Azabudai Hills.

## ~ Spring ~

London will be firmly on the map for high-end travelers with the Knightsbridge opening of Maybourne Hotel Group's The Emory, its fourth hotel in London. A modern architectural masterpiece, designed by the late Richard Rogers, soars above the treetops of Hyde Park. Over in Mayfair, Mandarin Oriental Mayfair, London will open in Hanover Square where fashion, art, media and business intersect. Corinthia adds to the brand's portfolio with its first property



The Emory, London

in the U.S.—The Surrey, A Corinthia Hotel—an elegant restoration on NYC's Upper East Side—and in Brussels, Corinthia Grand Hotel Astoria, in a restored landmark hotel built for Leopold II in 1909. In Türkiye, the spectacular new Maxx Royal Bodrum Resort will open in May with exceptional views of the Aegean Sea. In Morocco, Four Seasons Rabat opens its conversion of an 18th-century "palace by the sea." For an island

Hopping over to Santorini, Santo Mine Oia Suites is a luxury property overlooking the Aegean and in Cyprus, Amyth of Nicosia will be the second hotel in the new collection from Thanos Hotels. One&Only on the Cyclades island of Kéa opens in Spring. For a truly authentic experience, Six Senses Kyoto is the brand's first entry into Japan with 81 guest rooms organized around a central courtyard, providing a garden of seasonal landscapes. And if vacationing on the move is more your thing, the Royal Scotsman, A Belmond Train is enhancing the train's accommodation categories to four (Grand Suites, Double, Twin and Single cabins). Amenities will include one spa treatment per person in the train's dedicated Dior Spa carriage, the only one of its kind in Europe, for those staying in the new Grand Suites. Another Belmond train, British Pullman, will elevate its dining offering with the launch of The Carriage Club Dinners in May.

## ~ Summer ~

Join the club: In Bangkok, an urban oasis in Nai Lert Park tropical gardens, the 52-suite Aman Nai Lert Bangkok will include an Aman Club. And J.K. Place in Rome will open J.K. Residence Club. On Crete in Greece, InterContinental Resort, Crete, will offer 205 guest rooms, all with private verandas. The new boutique hotel, Andronis Minois, opens in Paros, coinciding with the annual Andronis Gastronomy Festival in the Cyclades.

## Thoughtful Travel



SHA Wellness Clinic, Spain

The coming year is all about tackling the impact that a fast-paced life has on our wellbeing and the world around us, says **Alice Simkins Vyce**

### Wellness

SHA Wellness Clinic, which overlooks the bay of Altea in Spain, has launched a week-long Leader's Performance Program specifically geared toward CEOs or anyone who faces high stress—ideal for starting the year on a good footing. Tapping into the ancient healing practices of the local Pataxó community, UXUA Casa Hotel & Spa in Trancoso, Brazil offers bespoke nutritional programs from Medical Director Dr. Jullian Hamamoto, using seasonal ingredients grown in the Vida Lab—a renovated casa within UXUA's gardens with a rooftop covered in edible plants. In Costa Rica, Tabacón Thermal Resort & Spa—a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World—has just introduced four suites with private plunge pools and an additional four suites with outdoor bathtubs for balneotherapy (thermal mineral-water bathing) with views of the magnificent Arenal volcano.

In Sardinia, Valle Dell'Erica Thalasso & SPA Resort was named Europe's Leading Green Resort for the fifth year running at 2023's World



UXUA Casa Hotel & Spa, Brazil

Travel Awards and sits on 70 acres of natural reserve close to Costa Smeralda.

### Art

Seek unique opportunities to meet artists and artisans to help build your art collection this year. THE PLACE Firenze's philanthropic foundation The Place of Wonders is dedicated to the protection of centuries-old Italian craft,



The Peninsula Hong Kong Boutique & Café

supporting artisans and craft students through a series of scholarships in partnership with LAO, the Florentine goldsmith school formerly known as Le Arti Orafe di Firenze. Join the foundation to become a patron of the arts and gain exclusive access to artisans in their spaces through the hotel's concierge team. Take the direct train from Florence to Venice and stay in The Venice Venice Hotel, in the historic center of the city on the waters of the Grand Canal. Founders Alessandro and Francesca Gallo have filled the rooms of the former Byzantine palace Ca' da Mosto—where intellectuals, artists and poets gathered—with artworks collected over 25 years.

## Special Advertising Feature

**ILTM**  
INTERNATIONAL LUXURY TRAVEL MARKET

# Travel Trends for 2024

## The Power of Youth

Gen Z craves experiential travel, inspired by authenticity, culture, and—of course—locations that look good on social media. For the city's 750th anniversary, De L'Europe Amsterdam will focus on art and design by sought-after Dutch creatives and will open its 16 't Huys suites in early summer. The Moxy in Barcelona has a rooftop chill-out area with pool, cabanas, a bar, pop-up food stands and amazing views. The Stay Warehouse in Turkey's cool city Alaçati is a former industrial space, with 24 rooms, an outdoor pool, and curated artworks. Get cultured in the U.K. capital, as The Londoner partners with the Royal Academy of Arts to offer guests discounted exhibition tickets and curated experiences. Winter-solstice sound bath in wine country? Auberge Resorts Collection and mindful movement brand Sanctum are launching a series of wellness retreats in the U.S. for 2024. The locations include Napa Valley's next-generation wellbeing destination, Stanly Ranch, and other properties in Austin, Telluride and Connecticut.

## Private Properties

Off-duty celebs, tycoons and royalty can vacation away from the public gaze at exclusive villas, private islands and resorts, relaxing unobserved. ANI Private Resorts has coastal estates for single-group use, offering new levels of privacy at properties in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic, and Anguilla. At The Saxon Hotel, Villas & Spa in Johannesburg, three stand-alone luxury villas can be booked in their entirety for sole use by guests seeking exclusivity. Grand Hotel Son Net's Pool Cottage House, with private garden and pool, offers seclusion in Mallorca. In autumn, .HERE Baa Atoll will open eight luxury villas on two private Maldives islands.



Grand Hotel Son Net, Mallorca

## It's Personal

A hyper-personalized vacation means feeling truly pampered. For guests at Bawah Reserve's six cliffside Elang Private Residences in Indonesia, all experiences are fully personalized. In its collaboration with Eden Rock - St. Barths, Eden Rock Yacht Rental by Royal Yacht International invites resort guests to create their dream tailored voyage and set sail. La Casa de la Playa on Mexico's Caribbean shore offers bespoke experiences ranging from purification rituals to dining in underground caves. If reading is your escape, the Book Butler at the University Arms in Cambridge, U.K., will create a list for you from the hotel's extensive library containing titles curated by London bookshop Heywood Hill.

“

*Experiential travel remains a key driver for guests but is evolving as a concept, as travelers increasingly seek time to reconnect and explore. This is about more than connecting with the environment in which they holiday—they want to reconnect with themselves and their loved ones.*

**John Pagano,**  
Chief Executive Officer of Red Sea Global



Sea Cloud II, Lindblad Expeditions

Luxurique can secure exclusive after-hours access to a temple for a private cherry-blossom viewing so you can avoid the busy seasonal crowds. To travel by sea this year, set sail with Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic on the Sea Cloud II, which will have its first season from May 15 through Sept. 20. Capturing the golden age of voyaging in the 1930s, it will feature new journeys exploring Italy, Croatia and Slovenia. The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's new custom-built yacht, Ilma, will make its first trip to the Caribbean this Nov. 14. Join the round trip from San Juan to embark on a rainforest hike in St. Lucia's twin peaks, the UNESCO-protected Pitons, before traveling to Terre-de-Haut, Antigua and Virgin Gorda.

## Wildlife

In the heart of the Galápagos islands, the family-friendly Pikaia Lodge by Relais & Châteaux is the only hotel to have its own private Giant Tortoise Reserve. Its team is undertaking an

## The Generational Mix

Scott Dunn's Annual Survey reveals guests' desire for "meaningful moments" in 2024. Once-in-a-lifetime holidays are no longer on hold, with travelers keen for intimate and authentic experiences with loved ones, traveling slower, further afield and for longer. Nostalgia and history lessons abound when multi-generational families stay at Normandy's Château La Chenevière, a 5-star base for exploring France's WWII battlefields on the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June. The Doyle Collection's Bloomsbury hotel in London's Camping Experience for kids offers tepee beds and a "midnight feast." Hong Kong's Pacific Place is a lifestyle and business hub with retail, dining, entertainment, 268 serviced apartments and award-winning hotels, including Conrad Hong Kong.



The Upper House, Hong Kong

## Tech in Travel

While the human touch really makes a vacation, digital technology can enhance it. At The Upper House, Hong Kong's high-rise retreat, the House Collective's biennial program "Encounters Across Cultures" celebrates multicultural and multidisciplinary collaborations. The program's third iteration recently explored the intersection of tech and art through four multi-sensory data sculptures and music tracks, inspired by biometric data captured in four cities. The Reserve in Madeira connects guests with a Guest Experience Personal Assistant to tailor and prepare the stay to specific requests prior to arrival, via messaging app. The tech moguls expected at Qatar's February Web Summit in Doha can use the Four Seasons app to check in to Four Seasons Resort and Residences at The Pearl-Qatar.

## Americans in Paris (and New York)

Cross the Atlantic to Paris and see the world's sporting elite competing in athletics, tennis and a famous 24-hour sports-car race. Get your game face on with the HydraFacial treatments at Spa Le Bristol by La Prairie at Le Bristol Paris. A fitness club and 25-meter pool will add a sporty vibe to 5-star La Fondation. Escape into a green oasis at Bloom House in the 10th arrondissement—its Bloomy Spa offers treatments, massages and relaxation. Recover



Le Bristol Paris

from a shopping marathon in Faubourg-Montmartre at La Fantaisie hotel's spa. The Peninsula Paris will partner with endurance car race "Les 24 Heures du Mans" and, as part of an exclusive package, guests can enjoy a helicopter flight over the Le Mans race circuit, on-track sessions, and top viewing spots. Like Paris itself, the Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel is always a good idea: it retains all of its 18th-century opulence while also offering modern experiences in cuisine, wellness, beauty and entertainment. And if you're following the sporting action from Stateside, do so on a city-break at Park Lane New York, a Preferred Hotels & Resorts property.

by Jackie Hunter



Mandarin Oriental Mayfair, London

Costa Smeralda's Hotel Romazzino joins the Belmond family in Sardinia—think slow-paced "villeggiatura" lifestyle. While in Rome, Casa Monti, a 36-room boutique hotel in the artisan neighborhood has a village vibe. Rocco Forte House in Milan is a sensitively restored 19th-



Andronis Minois, Paros, Greece

century palazzo on the corner of Via Manzoni and Via della Spiga, in Quadrilatero della Moda, and is part of Rocco Forte's most ambitious expansion plan to date.

Bulgari's new hotel in Tokyo opens in time for cherry blossom, with another to follow in Rome in June. And with Japan proving to be a top destination, don't miss Four Seasons' opening in Osaka, Japan. Fairmont Breakers, Long Beach is a legend come back to life with the revival of this California beach hotel.

## ~ Fall ~

Plan a winter-sun vacation on Mahé Island in Seychelles where the sixth Cheval Blanc Maison opens with 52 large villas and customized experiences. In Dubai, Jumeirah Marsa Al Arab opens late 2024 on Dubai's largest private beach. The Regent Jeddah will be the first Regent hotel in the Middle East facing the Red Sea and features a 500-square-meter spa by Raison d'Etre. Six Senses The Forestias, Bangkok opens at the end of the year. Here, guests will be able to explore therapeutic benefits of nature in a forest setting. For the more adventurous,

InterContinental Pokhara Begnas Lake opens in Nepal with breathtaking views of Nepal's third-largest lake. Vestige Torres de Donlebún is a painstakingly restored 16th-century castle hidden amid rolling valleys in Spain's green heart of Asturias. Brenners, a 150-year-old flagship hotel in the German spa town Baden-Baden, is getting a complete interior makeover while Château de la Commaraine is a newly renovated castle hotel with 37 rooms, in the famous village of Pommard. For true sophistication, book the Fairmont Golden Prague, an enchanting landmark hotel in Prague's Old Town. The place to be in New York City will be the legendary Waldorf Astoria, which is expected to reopen in late 2024 following an extensive restoration. Across the pond, the hotly anticipated Six Senses London is a transformation of the former Whiteley's building and will house a social and wellness club, with a central lounge, bar and restaurant, co-working spaces, and treatment rooms. The Newman, in London's Fitzrovia, will be where the culture of Bloomsbury meets the style of Soho. For skiers, the Étoile du Nord by Haute Montagne will comprise two adjoining large chalets in the heart of Val d'Isère.

As sustainability is on everyone's lips the best way of traveling is on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, A Belmond Train, which adds a second Paris-Istanbul journey, and will repeat its Paris-Vienna & Vienna-Paris winter trips in December this year.



Six Senses The Forestias, Thailand

There are pieces by Lucio Fontana and Christo, as well as site-specific works. It's the perfect base to attend the first event on Mar. 23 at Good Vibes by OroVetro, a museum and gallery space in Murano that brings to life the magic of glassmaking. During Hong Kong Art Basel in March, The Peninsula Hong Kong will display pieces by Elise Morin, Saya Woolfalk and Kingsley Ng as part of its global art program "Art in Resonance," which supports emerging and mid-career artists. There will also be artists in residence in Bangkok and Beijing, a collaboration with Japanese artist and calligrapher Maaua Wakasugi at The Peninsula Tokyo, and The Peninsula Chicago's annual art exhibition during EXPO in September.

## Cuisine

In Paris, Cookoon will create a bespoke gastronomic experience catered by the finest chefs (Alain Passard, Anne-Sophie Pic, Pierre Gagnaire, Christian Le Squer) and leading sommeliers (Florent Martin, Gabriele Del Carlo)



Chef J.B. Lavergne for Cookoon | Credit: Guillaume Savary

*It's less expensive to come to Japan in late Feb to early March, and you can still catch the last of the winter skiing season. Japan is one of the few places where you can ski in short-sleeved t-shirts and jeans—something avid skiers are really willing to try.*

**Naomi Mano,**  
Founder & CEO of Luxurique

in one of its 40 exceptional private venues, whether you will be dining, wine tasting or taking a kitchen class. Celebrate 40 years of Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, A Belmond Hotel in Oxfordshire, which has held two Michelin stars since its opening. On Feb. 6 join Raymond Blanc at the anniversary event for a champagne toast and have a leisurely five-course lunch before exploring the grounds.

## Adventure

If you've been longing for a trip to discover the wonders of Japan, Luxurique tour operator will design a bespoke travel itinerary with a focus on your particular interests—whether that's visiting temples and shrines or natural hot springs (onsens) and artisan workshops—drawing on its exclusive connections to people and places that you wouldn't otherwise encounter. In Spring,

ongoing program of reforestation with native species to encourage wildlife to return to the land. InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort has announced its third Manta Retreat in March, which includes snorkeling, research trips and on-hand educational workshops. Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel situated at the base of Table Mountain, Cape Town, celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. Join them for marine experiences, from whale-watching to diving, led by marine biologist Justin Blake of the RockHopper Fund. Peak whale season is June to November. Visit South Africa—Scott Dunn's No. 2 destination for U.S. guests for travel in 2024—to join a research team in the field for a week at and Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve, in partnership with African Conservation Experience, to learn from professionals in wildlife conservation.



Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town

Edited for ILTM by Sarah Miller, Founder and CEO of Sarah Miller and Partners