

January 2019

LIFESTYLE

COME SEE THE PARADISE

It's time you made your travel plans for coming year.
From secluded islands to game reserves, The Peak highlights
the hotels that should be on your 2019 bucket list.

Leave the world behind
for the relaxed luxury of
Kokomo Private Island Fiji.



KOKOMO PRIVATE ISLAND FIJI

If you really do need an excuse to finally visit Fiji – does anyone, really? – you’d do well to let the immense charms of Kokomo Private Island Fiji draw you in. A peerless mix of untouched beauty and relaxed luxury, Kokomo Private Island Fiji is a stunning 45-minute flight by seaplane or helicopter from Nadi International Airport. Located on Yaukuve Levu Island, south of Suva, the island is surrounded by the Great Astrolabe Reef, one of the world’s largest barrier reef, which ensures you’ll find world-class diving and fishing with captivating marine life and coral.



Onshore, you’ll find spectacular white sand beaches as well as 21 Beachfront Villas and five Luxury Residences, all complete with private infinity pools and gardens, and where privacy is assured and service impeccable. This is your personal slice of paradise, so feel free to do as much or little as you like. The water activities are, of course, breathtaking, while the Yankuve Spa Sanctuary is, quite rightly, a haven of relaxation.

Sunset cruises are memorably romantic, and a boat ride to nearby Kudavu Island will reveal a hidden waterfall oasis. Discover an elevated Fijian cuisine, where island-grown and locally sourced produce take centre stage, or – our personal favourite – leave everything behind a comfortable seat on the edge of the ocean, book in hand and sundowner in the other, and let the world slip by. kokomoislandfiji.com

With only 26 villas and residences, Kokomo Private Island Fiji offers total privacy and impeccable service.





CAPELLA UBUD, BALI

A dazzling endeavour that brilliantly balances tranquillity and adventure, Capella Ubud, Bali is located in dense rainforest on sloping terrain leading to the sacred Wos River in Keliki Village. Here, nestled at the heart of lush green forests, is a unique tented camp that sits in harmony with the surrounding nature. Within are 21 one-bedroom tents as well as one two-bedroom lodge, all with private salt water pools, large outdoor decks, and indoor and outdoor bathrooms,

featuring a hammered copper stand-alone bath. Inside each individually styled tent, timeless charm, including handpicked antique furniture and artefacts, wooden carved doors, Balinese *poleng* and *ikat* linen, meets modern convenience to make sure you lack for nothing.

The Officers Tent, exclusively reserved for camp residents, is the camp's living room and library, while Mads Lange, the camp's split-level tented dining room, serves up seasonal and sustainable



dishes created using locally-farmed ingredients and influenced by the historical spice trail. Auriga Wellness, spread across three wellness tents as well as in-retreat nomadic therapies and treatments, offers a diverse choice of pampering, healing journeys and adventure wellness. A perfect nightcap to the evening would be at the daily Camp Fire, where you can meet a local storyteller or historian, or catch a silent black and white movie. capellaubud.com

Capella Ubud, Bali's tented camp sits in harmony with the surrounding rainforest.



HÔTEL DE BERRI, PARIS

True, Paris hardly needs another luxurious hotel but every city, we believe, deserves something like Hôtel de Berri. The Luxury Collection hotel, part of Marriott International, is located on the historic rue de Berri in the fashionable eighth arrondissement, a short walk away from Champs-Élysées and Parc Monceau in the heart of the Triangle d'Or shopping district. Previously a 1970s office building, the hotel sits on the site of what was formerly the residence of Princesse Mathilde Bonaparte and legendary couturier Elsa Schiaparelli.

The reimagined space exudes a unique atmosphere and timeless elegance, with eclectic, refined and bold interiors that pay tribute to 20th century French decorative arts. The individually decorated 75 rooms – 35 of which are suites – are engaging yet homely, replete with vibrant colours, paintings and antique furniture.

The Italian restaurant Le Schiap – apropos the address' former occupant – fittingly features a large fresco celebrating Parisian *joie de vivre*, while the bar, Le Bizzaz, is a highlight of Neoclassical reliefs and craft cocktails. Le Bizzaz also overlooks the hotel's private garden, a miraculously preserved 3,000 sq m landscaped garden. A calm and cool oasis in an urban setting, Hôtel de Berri is pet friendly as well – just something else to love it for. marriott.com

Hôtel de Berri exudes a unique atmosphere and timeless elegance with its eclectic and bold interiors.



AWEI PILA, MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO

It's always great to discover new destinations, especially one so close to home. The Mergui Archipelago lies off the far southern coast of Myanmar. Comprised of hundreds of islands, with coral reefs and uninhabited beaches, it's a haven for birds, notably the plain-pouched hornbill, as well as marine life like dugongs and turtles. The secluded Pila Island is located in the Mergui Archipelago and is 80km offshore, north-west of Kawthoung, literally the furthest south you can drive in Myanmar. A two-hour speedboat ride from the mainland, Pila is nestled among a labyrinth of some 800 islands, atolls and coral reefs, which were, until recently, a haven only to wayward mariners, pirates and a handful of indigenous Moken or 'sea gypsy' fishing families.

The newly opened Awei Pila features 24 air-conditioned tented villas fronting a white-sand beach, an open-air restaurant, and spa. The isolated beach is surrounded by virgin forest with views out to the open

Andaman Sea. The natural bay embraces a 600m long beach front, which is divided into two by a large rock formation that adds to the privacy. There isn't a great deal to do here, which is part of its charm. The island has a single source of fresh water, 10 as yet unexplored sandy beaches, a host of birds, and coves alive with fish, dugongs and turtles. The local village boasts a rickety wooden pier, a Buddhist temple and a single beach-shack bar with a pool table. Barefoot luxury at its finest, we say. aweipila.com



Enjoy barefoot luxury at its best with Awei Pila's 24 tented villas on an isolated beach in the middle of the Andaman Sea.



ANDBEYOND TENGILE RIVER LODGE

The nine suites at andBeyond Tengile River Lodge are a perfect base when venturing into the Sabi Sands Game Reserve.

Opened just last month, andBeyond Tengile River Lodge is located in the game-rich Sabi Sands Game Reserve in north-east South Africa. Adjacent to the world-renowned Kruger National Park, Sabi Sand is famed for its intimate wildlife encounters. Home to a host of animals, including the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino), Sabi Sand is part of a conservation area that covers

over two million hectares. With no boundary fences between Sabi Sand and Kruger National Park, this reserve benefits from the great diversity of animals found in one of the richest wildlife areas on the African continent.

Meaning 'tranquil' in the local Tsonga language, andBeyond Tengile River Lodge is situated on a bend of the Sand River. Built with an

extremely light footprint, Tengile will feature nine suites that are raised above ground level to give the impression that they are floating over the riverbed. The spacious suites will offer sunken lounges, elegant bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms (with indoor and al fresco showers) that open out into the forest, creating private spaces in the open air. andBeyond.com





WALDORF ASTORIA BANGKOK

The Waldorf Astoria Bangkok sets new benchmarks for luxury in South-East Asia.

Waldorf Astoria's South-East Asian debut is, indeed, a stately entry for the brand into the region. Located within the 60-storey Magnolias Ratchadamri Boulevard, in the heart of the bustling Ratchaprasong intersection, Waldorf Astoria Bangkok exudes effortless glamour and luxury, and, together with its timeless environment and exclusively crafted guest experiences, seems poised to set new benchmarks for luxury in Asia.

Towering above the city, the dazzling sculptural appearance of the property – designed to give the effect

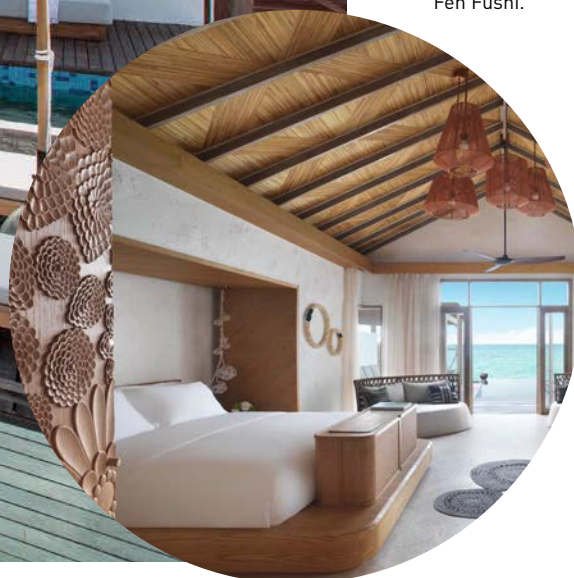
of springing from the ground like a magnolia flower – cuts a dramatic profile in the skyline of Bangkok. The 171 residential-style, spacious and luxuriously appointed guest rooms and suites feature spa-inspired bathrooms and marble bathtubs, and are conceptualised to embrace the gracious Thai spirit in an elegant setting. The property's levels 55 to 57 comprising three distinctive, artistically curated dining outlets – Bull & Bear, The Loft and The Champagne Bar, all showcasing the Waldorf Astoria legacy with sweeping views of this most vibrant city.

[hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com)





Expect a truly exceptional experience at the Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi.



FAIRMOUNT MALDIVES SIRRU FEN FUSHI

In a place where the spectacular is a norm, it does take something special to be truly exceptional. One of the most beautiful destinations in the world, the Maldives is spoilt for choice when it comes to luxurious hospitality. The Fairmont Maldives Sirru Fen Fushi, on the Shaviyani Atoll in North Maldives, however, makes a compelling case of being *primus inter pares*, boasting a 200m long swimming pool that bisects the island, connecting Onu Onu, the beachfront bar, crafted entirely of bamboo by Balinese artisans, on the west coast to the Willow Stream Spa in the east.

This direct connection between rejuvenation and libation is hardly the only thing the resort has going for it. There are 120 villas here, including luxury safari-style tented villas nestled in the island's lush

interior jungle, all complete with a private pool, while copper bathroom fittings and carved wood detailing on furniture lend them a bohemian rustic chic vibe.

Surrounded by abundant sea life and a pristine coral house reef, Sirru Fen Fushi, which means 'secret water island' in the local Dhivehi language, regularly welcomes manta rays, turtles, and bottlenose and spinner dolphins in the crystal-clear waters of its 600ha lagoon – the largest resort lagoon in the Maldives. As an added bonus, the 9km long house reef, directly accessible from the beach, is also, uniquely, home to a manta ray cleaning station, a perfect opportunity to see this majestic marine creature in a beautiful display of aquatic symbiosis with smaller sea life. fairmont-maldives.com

MR C SEAPORT

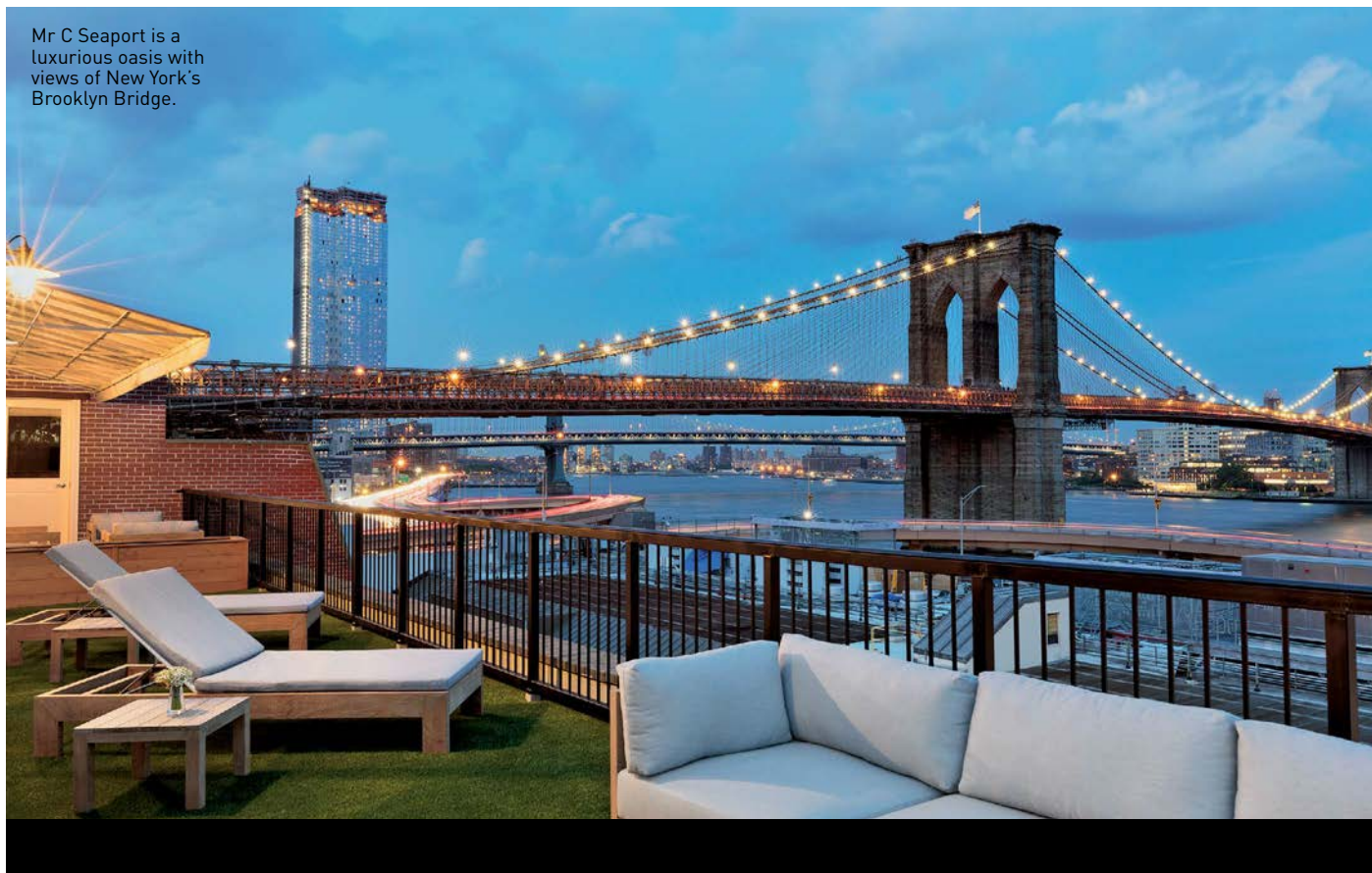
Located in New York's Seaport District, the city's original commercial hub, Mr C Seaport provides a luxurious oasis amidst the bustling backdrop of the city, offering idyllic views of the nearby East River, Brooklyn Bridge and New York skyline. A contemporary yet classic retreat, the hotel, founded by the famed Cipriani family, boasts finely appointed guestrooms, including premium suites with panoramic balcony terraces. Location is the key to the hotel's unique appeal. Set in the burgeoning Seaport District, it is centred on Pier 17's iconic waterfront that serves as a cultural, dining, retail and entertainment anchor for Lower Manhattan.

Mr C Seaport offers 66 finely appointed guest rooms and suites, refined and elegant living with personalised service and amenities. All rooms feature lustrous teak veneer, rain showers, 50" interactive 4K televisions and the finest Italian linens. Ten premium suites

include panoramic balconies overlooking the nearby East River. Thoughtful amenities, including the use of a house car within a 20-block radius of the hotel, heighten the experience of staying here. Our vote, however, goes to the fact that guests are welcomed with a *Bellini*, the classic cocktail created by Giuseppe Cipriani in 1948 at Harry's Bar in Venice. mrcseaport.com



Mr C Seaport is a luxurious oasis with views of New York's Brooklyn Bridge.



CANAVES OIA EPITOME, SANTORINI

While this sun-kissed island in the Aegean Sea attracts nearly 1.5 million visitors a year, crowded is the last thing you'd feel in Canaves Oia Epitome. That, partly, is due to its location above the picturesque fishing town of Ammoudi, north of the town of Oia in Santorini. This

dreamy escape afford peace, space and, more importantly, privacy. The 24 luxurious villas are within walking distance of Oia's famous Katharos Beach, with its black sands and crashing waves. The villas, in grey and smoky hues that hark at the surrounding dusky volcanic landscapes, come with either a heated plunge or private pool each,

amazing sunset and sea views, and the most lavish of facilities. The Mediterranean fine-dining Elements Restaurant & Bar offers an inspiring outdoor setting, with local volcanic stone, white Cycladic rendered walls and even more extraordinary views of the Santorinian sunset. canaves.com



A dreamy escape awaits at Canaves Oia Epitome.

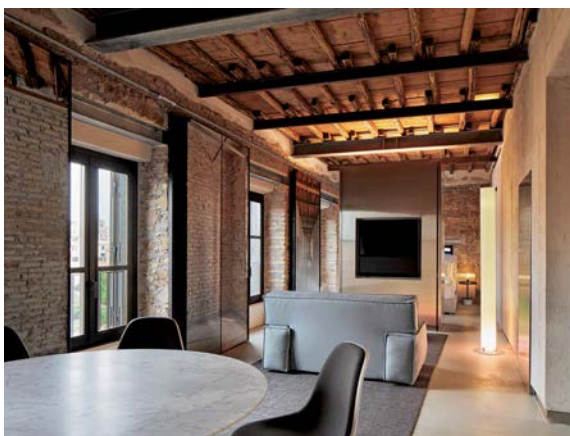
THE ROOMS OF ROME, ITALY

If nothing else, one of the Eternal City's newest hotels has a great address. The Rooms of Rome is house in the Palazzo Rhinoceros, a refurbished 17th-century palazzo in the city's Velabro quarter that is now the new seat of the Fondazione Alda Fendi – Esperimenti. Along with offices for the foundation, the six-floor palazzo will also have spaces devoted exhibitions, research and experimentation, as well as a rooftop terrace that offers stunning views of Rome, especially of the Forum Boarium, The Arch of Janus, the splendid church of San Giorgio al Velabro, the temple of Hercules Victor and the Palatine Hill.

The 24 residences, spread across two floors of the palazzo, range from studios to two-bedroom apartments, and are all uniquely designed, with sleek furnishings standing in stark

contrast to the rough, unfinished walls. Each apartment comes with a patented, customised steel box that unfolds to reveal kitchens, bathrooms or cabinets. As a finishing touch, the top two floors of the palazzo houses Caviar Kaspia, the Franco-Russian inspired Paris restaurant. theroomsofrome.com

The residences at The Rooms of Rome are all individually designed.



ANANTARA QUY NHON VILLAS

Poised to make its debut in Malaysia later this year, Anantara has consistently delivered some of the most stunning experiences in some of the most world’s most beautiful locations. The brand’s latest outpost certainly fulfils these two criterion. Located in a secluded bay in south-central Vietnam, known for its impossibly white beaches and emerald waters, Anantara Quy Nhon Villas comprises 26 villas ensconced amidst 7.2ha of landscaped tropical gardens. The resort has been designed to seamlessly blend into the natural environment, with locally-sourced materials, traditional craftsmanship and regional influences discretely incorporated into its contemporary design.

The spacious villas boast sleek timber and granite sun decks, oversized bathtubs, private lap pools and



Anantara Quy Nhon Villas is located on a secluded bay in south-central Vietnam.

extended low overhanging roofs, giving them a fresh, contemporary feel. Typical Anantara signatures like in-room butler services and unique spa offerings are to be expected, as well as unique guest experiences that explore the region’s rich culture and heritage. Dining is to be savoured here, celebrating the abundant local seafood and regional flavours. We particularly delight in the fact that you can arrange for a luxurious Vietnamese street food affair right in your villa. anantara.com



Enjoy pure tranquillity at Alila Wuzhen.

ALILA WUZHEN

While Alila finally made its debut in Kuala Lumpur last year, it is the brand’s third property in China that really caught our eye in 2018. Located an hour from Hangzhou and 1½ hours from Shanghai, Alila Wuzhen

is five minutes away from the famous 1,300-year-old Wuzhen Water Town in eastern China. Famous for its canals, the town has been dubbed the ‘Venice of the East’, and Alila’s new property, which opened in November, takes inspiration from Wuzhen’s maze of quiet canals and ancient alleyways.

A modern interpretation of the water town’s design lineage, Alila Wuzhen boasts 125 generously appointed suites, villas and pool villas – all wrapped around private courtyards and intertwining waterways within a tranquil setting. Serenity reigns in these private quarters, which are designed to

ensuring every modern comfort for its residents. The main public spaces, meanwhile, are gathered around a central water courtyard, with water features dissecting indoor and outdoor spaces throughout the resort.

Rejuvenation can be found at Spa Alila, while four distinct F&B outlets offer the promise of culinary pleasure whatever your palate might desire. Take time out, too, to explore curated Alila Experiences that unveil the best of Wuzhen, be it a visit to the town’s famed wine distillery, a ride down the canals, or discovering the colour and bustle of its water market. alilahotels.com



The RuMa is a sumptuous retreat from the world outside.

THE RUMA, KUALA LUMPUR

What a year 2018 has been for luxury hospitality in Kuala Lumpur. A veritable rash of openings elevated the local scene, what with the debuts of, among others, Banyan Tree, Alila and W, as well as the Four Seasons’ second outpost in the country. While all stand out in their own ways, The RuMa, an Urban Resort Concepts development in Jalan Kia Peng, offers a level of refinement that is all its own.

Building on the ethos of its sibling, the outstanding The PuLi Hotel & Spa in Shanghai, The RuMa weaves the local with the contemporary, taking

its cues from Malaysian history and hospitality to conceive a truly unique experience in the heart of the city. A dramatic birdcage, a reference to the country’s tin-mining history, made from interlaced glazed and non-glazed terracotta, greets you upon entry, leading into a salon dominated by a grand double staircase that appears to penetrate and ‘drill’ through the copper-tiled ceiling – another reminder of Malaysia’s mining past as well as a tribute to the spiral staircases of old colonial houses.

Service reflects the ‘hostmanship’ inherent in its name – Malay for ‘home’ – where every comfort and expectation has been anticipated and catered for. With effortless 24-hour check-in and check-out, all-day butler service for select suites, a complimentary fully stocked mini-bar and the option of breakfast anywhere in the hotel, The RuMa treats every guest exactly as an accomplished host would – seamlessly and unobtrusively caring for every need within an expansive and sumptuous retreat from the world outside. theruma.com

