

and create custom kilts, while onboard Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady* (sailing the Caribbean next April), Mega RockStar suites come with their own glam squads.

### POP-UPS APLENTY

Restaurants, boutiques, and bars are taking up temporary residence in hotels. Sip daiquiris at the Mandarin Oriental, Barcelona outpost of Havana's famed **La Bodeguita del Medio** (a Hemingway favorite), which pops up in November, or admire fashion and artworks at **Faena Hotel Miami Beach** during the first week of December, coinciding with Art Basel Miami Beach. Four Seasons' invite-only "pop-downs" aim for the inverse, taking hotel parties into unexpected places, such as a culinary art event DJed by Mark Ronson in a vacant Hong Kong retail space.

### ANIMAL INSTINCTS

From wildlife conservation to dogs of Instagram, animals are in this year. Kokomo Private Island Fiji recently launched the

country's first acoustic manta-ray-tagging project, while in South Africa, the African Pangolin Working Group partners with andBeyond Phinda Private Game Reserve and Tswalu Kalahari Reserve to give visitors the chance to help **protect endangered pangolins**, the most trafficked animal in the world.

Increasingly, hotels also claim resident mascots, including a staff member's 3-year-old French bulldog, Wrench, at The Douglas, Autograph Collection in Vancouver, British Columbia; a Bernese mountain dog named Kitty at The St. Regis Aspen Resort; and Ashford Castle's Cronan and Garvan – two huge, lovable Irish wolfhounds who, naturally, have their own Instagram account: @ashford\_wolfhounds. And resident animals aren't limited to dogs: A **miniature horse named Cupcake** joins guests for cocktail hour at Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Virginia.

### A TASTE FOR PLACE

Travelers continue to crave hyperlocal culinary experiences, from **real ants garnish-**



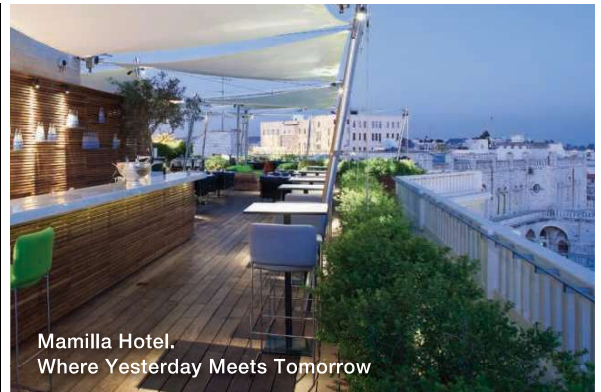
**Back in black:** Virtuoso's David Kolner and Terrie Hansen onstage during the Gala Awards Dinner.

**ing craft cocktails** (find them at The Langham, Sydney) to street-food tours in less-explored corners of Vietnam (through the new Anantara Quy Nhon Villas). In Ecuador, tour operator Luxury Gold and nonprofit ME to WE have partnered to take guests behind the scenes at a local chocolate operation, while at Portugal's Vila Monte Farm House, guests can **harvest their own oysters** with local fisherfolk before dinner. VI

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