

GOURMET TRAVEL

2008

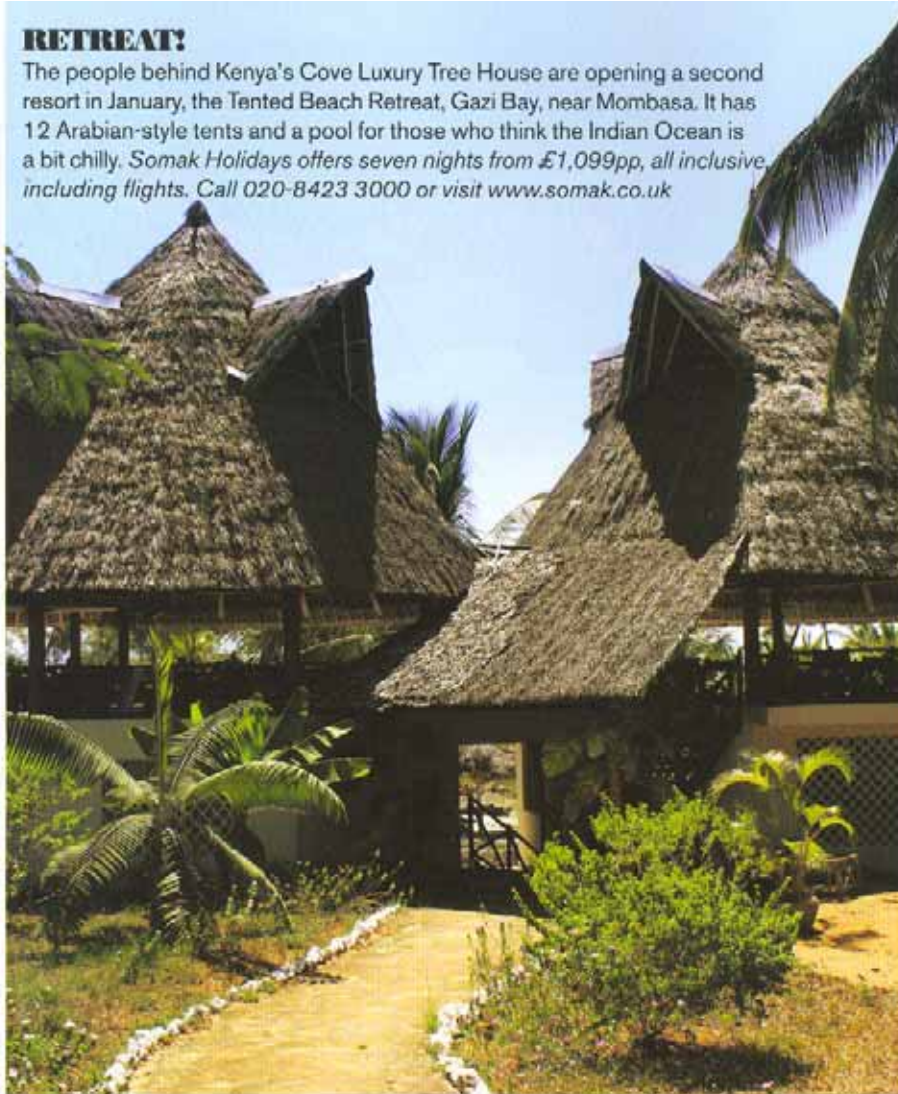
**FLAVOURS
OF ITALY**
GASTRONOMIC
ADVENTURES IN
VENICE AND SICILY

**COMFORT
EATING**
20 LUXURY VILLAS
WITH CHEFS

PRODUCED BY
**HOUSE
& GARDEN**
PROMOTIONS

RETREAT!

The people behind Kenya's Cove Luxury Tree House are opening a second resort in January, the Tented Beach Retreat, Gazi Bay, near Mombasa. It has 12 Arabian-style tents and a pool for those who think the Indian Ocean is a bit chilly. *Somak Holidays offers seven nights from £1,099pp, all inclusive, including flights. Call 020-8423 3000 or visit www.somak.co.uk*



Side dishes

Hotel openings and other news from across the globe

INKATERRA LA CASONA Peruvian travel firm Inkaterra should be opening its new 11-suite hotel in a 16th-century Spanish colonial mansion in Cusco sometime in spring. *Call 0800-458 7506 or visit www.inkaterra.com*



MANDARIN ORIENTAL RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO (ABOVE) The Americas' most eagerly anticipated new resort has finally opened its doors, complete with a 20,000 sq ft spa and its own freshwater lake. *Carrier offers seven nights from £1,730pp. Call 0161-491 7620 or visit www.carrier.co.uk*

CALABASH HOTEL & VILLAS Gary Rhodes is updating the menu at his restaurant at the Calabash in Grenada. *Call 020-7751 0660 or visit www.carib-tours.co.uk*



GALAPAGOS SAFARI CAMP Michael and Stephanie Bonham-Carter

are opening a luxurious new camp on Santa Cruz, for relaxing pre- or post-cruise. Book through Bales Worldwide. *Call 0845-057 1819 or visit www.balesworldwide.com*

ECHO BEACH HOTEL, ZANZIBAR Hoteliers Sue and Andrew Page have migrated from France to open this very private hideaway on five acres of unspoiled Zanzibar beach. *Call +255-773 593260 or visit www.echobeachhotel.com*

POSADA DE MIKE RAPU, EASTER ISLAND Explora's new hotel in the middle of the Pacific. Pop in if you happen to be passing. *Call +562 206 6060 or visit www.explora.com*

EMBASSY ABU DHABI Mayfair restaurant Embassy has opened a branch at the Emirates Palace, with cuisine by Michelin-starred Gary Hollhead. *Call +97-2 690 9000 or visit www.emiratespalace.com*



CHUCK OUT THE GLITZ Per Aquum's new 24-room Desert Palm Dubai is scheduled to open in January on a private polo estate, and offers a welcome alternative to the city's usual bling. Seasons in Style offers seven nights from £1,035pp, including flights. *Call 01244-202000 or visit www.seasonsinstyle.com*



SIX SENSES ▲

It's a big year for the Six Senses group. The much-anticipated Evason Hideaway at Zighy Bay should be open by March, on Oman's spectacular Musandam peninsula. Arrive by paraglider if you dare. Three more properties are due to launch in 2008, including the Six Senses Erawan Destination Spa and Soneva Kiri, both in Thailand, and an Evason Latitude rather closer to home in Jafre, Spain. *Visit www.sixsenses.com*

Name game The former Hilton Rangali Island Resort Maldives, famed for its underwater restaurant and 5,000-bottle wine cellar, starts 2008 as a Conrad (Hilton's luxury offshoot). *Kuoni Travel offers seven nights from £1,615pp based on two sharing, including flights. Call 01306-747008 or visit www.kuoni.co.uk*



ELEMIS TAKES OFF

Products and treatments created exclusively by spa brand Elemis for BA's longhaul travellers are now available to Club World and First Class passengers. Elemis massages and facials are also available at Heathrow and JFK in New York. *Visit www.elemis.com*

