



luxury briefing

Krug's grandé dame of champagne *Leap into Spring with the world's top health spas*

Emotional Intelligence in the luxury retail space *Brand Authenticity in a digital world*

Pip Howeson taps into the new taste for all things bespoke *Luxury in the Middle East*

Brand Matters: Post luxury leadership

Plus: V&A presents Alexander McQueen and Ritz Carlton opens in Bali



INDUSTRY REPORTS

Luxury Services



1 **Ritz Carlton opens in Bali** _____

The Ritz-Carlton has also opened a new property, The Ritz-Carlton, Bali marking the brand's grand return to the idyllic island in Indonesia as a luxurious, locally-inspired resort, set amidst the dramatic cliffs and pristine beaches of southern Bali. Located in Sawangan, Nusa Dua, The Ritz-Carlton, Bali is set on 12.7 hectares of expansive manicured beach-front and cliff-top land. With 313 hotel rooms, including 34 cliff top and ocean view villas, the resort offers a dramatic location along the sweeping coastline of Nusa Dua's southern tip. The 180-degree views of the Indian Ocean are undeniably a highlight, with a 70-metre high glass elevator providing access to the beach. The luxury resort reinforces The Ritz-Carlton's commitment to authentic experiences and indigenous design elements. Embracing local symbolism, a central theme to the property is the Tree of Life, known to locals as "Kalpataru", which represents strength, wisdom, and beauty, and is prevalent throughout the resort and grounds. The décor is "Anyaman" style, coupled with design influences from local craftsmen and the surrounding landscape.

2 **Loama Resort Maldives opens** _____

A unique combination of bare-foot luxury and rich Maldivian heritage, the 105-room Loama Resort on the island of Maamigili is opening this month. The land housing Loama Resort Maldives is a teardrop-shaped private island, once the playground of ancient kings. It is located in the largely undiscovered Raa Atoll, representing the final frontier of the Maldives. The resort's over-water villas perch on poles above the

Indian Ocean, while its beach villas combine contemporary style with authentically Maldivian touches. Each room is endowed with its own Maldivian name that reflects its heritage, history and significance within the Maldivian culture. The resort has also established the Maldives' first gallery of contemporary Maldivian art, Loama Art Gallery, in an over-water pavilion near the resort's main pier, sanctioned by the National Art Gallery of Maldives in Male. This complements The Loama Museum in the lobby and beyond, which houses an important collection of artifacts from key periods of Maldivian history. This is part of an ongoing process of excavation and additional artifacts will be joining the museum's collection.

3 **One&Only Resorts manage Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley** _____

Emirates Airline has appointed One&Only Resorts, a subsidiary of Kerzner International Holdings Limited, a leading international developer and operator of destination resorts, casinos and luxury resorts, to manage the highly acclaimed luxury resort Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in Australia. This will be One&Only's second resort in Australia, following the successful rebirth of One&Only Hayman Island in July 2014. Emirates will continue to retain full ownership of the resort. Wolgan Valley is nestled between two of Australia's most prominent national parks in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, forming the centrepiece for unique experiences and insights into Australia's wildlife, history and cultural heritage. Occupying just one percent

of a 7,000-acre conservancy reserve, the resort has been carbon neutral for five years running. "Wolgan Valley is such a special place in Australia. The lists of awards and accolades that the resort has garnered speak to its unique value. We are proud of all that the resort has achieved, but now we feel that it is time to work with a partner to expand the Wolgan experience and take the resort to new heights. We are confident that Kerzner International, under the One&Only brand, is the perfect partner for Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa," says Sir Tim Clark, President of Emirates Airline.

4 **Chic Collection launches 24-hour online bookings** _____

Chic Collection, a new definitive guide to the most stylish places to stay around the world, blended with a travel advisory site for independent travellers, is launching as a 24-hour online booking platform this month. The curated collection of 112 hotel members in 32 destinations includes hotels such as Fregate Island Private in the Seychelles, Upper House Hong Kong, Edition Istanbul and London, Le Bristol Paris, Palais Namaskar in Marrakech, Rosewood London and Singita Safari Lodges. The hotels are divided into seven different categories that best describe the nature of the resort or hotel as well as the experience offered, ranging from EcoChic, to AlpineChic and SpaChic. Booking online with Chic Collection gives guests access to best available rates, added value extras on check in, exclusive website offers and helpful advice and tips on the hotel and destination. Chic Intelligence – the insider's guide to each hotel and its destination – is updated by Chic Collection's network of travel writers to make sure web visitors have access to relevant inside information.

5 **The Goring reopens** _____

At the end of January, an army of British craftsmen, painters, artists, designers and guilders descended upon The Goring as it closed its doors for the final flourishes of its designer renovation. The family-owned luxury London, Belgravia hotel is celebrating its official reopening this spring, in time for its 105th birthday celebrations. "Even through two World Wars, The Goring has never closed. However, we really wanted to give the craftsmen space to complete this total renovation. We will emerge, even better – and ready for the next 100 years to come," says Jeremy Goring. The renovation has involved four major English interior designers – Nina Campbell (suites); Tim Gosling (The Bar & Lounge, The Terrace and suites); David Linley (The Dining Room);

“The Goring is luxurious, but also familiar; it exudes Englishness, a sense of place, and true character.”

DAVID MORGAN-HEWITT, MANAGING DIRECTOR AT THE GORING



and Russell Sage (rooms and suites and the Royal Suite). For the Front Hall, Sage has been working with Fromental, makers of handmade wallpapers and fabrics, to design a scene hand-painted to Sage's brief which imagines the animals from London Zoo escaping into the park. The result is an English countryside with exotic animals in hiding. The focal point of the Hall, though, is the bespoke reception desk which evokes the grandeur of Georgian Chippendale furniture. The reopening also sees the arrival of a fleet of footmen, channelling Downton Abbey luxury and true-blue aristocratic service.

6 **FENDI Château Residences 70 percent sold**

Luxury private developer Château Group has announced that FENDI Château Residences in Miami, Florida is almost 70 percent sold, with approximately \$70 million in sales in January alone. FENDI Château Residences is a new and exclusive 12-story waterfront condominium building located at 9365 Collins Avenue, two blocks south of The Bal Harbour Shops. Venegas International Group is handling the marketing and sales of the property and recently opened the building's sales gallery and model residence. "FENDI Château Residences is attracting a balance of both domestic and international buyers," says Manuel Grosskopf, chairman and CEO of Château Group. Slated for completion in spring of 2016, FENDI Château Residences features 58 exclusive oceanfront residences and penthouses ranging in size from 3,300 square feet to more than 7,000 square feet, with prices from US\$6 million to \$25 million. FENDI Château Residences amenities package includes a wine cellar; library; ballroom; kid's club; private cinema with an adjacent business centre; beauty salon; state-of-the-art fitness centre overlooking the ocean; bicycle storage; multiple beachfront pools with cabanas; reflective ponds; spas and Jacuzzis; and a relaxation terrace with aromatherapy. Common areas include a private restaurant with a casual area, bar and full chef's kitchen; and an outdoor space designed for barbeques and gatherings.

7 **Baglioni Hotel London opens the Baglioni spa**

The Baglioni Hotel London has announced the opening of the new Baglioni SPA by Natura Bissé. The fully-renovated spa is in the heart of London, opposite Kensington Palace and Hyde Park. Designed by the Milanese Architects Rebosio+Spagnulo, the spa is open to non-residents as well as

hotel guests and has three treatment rooms, including a double for couples, a relaxation area, steam room and Turkish baths. The fitness centre is furnished with the most up-to-date Technogym equipment and managed by Hansen Personal Training, under the supervision of Linn Hansen, former UK Fitness Champion. Many of Natura Bissé's popular treatments are available at the spa, as well as a list of treatments, which have been exclusively developed for Baglioni Spa including the Carboxi Express – a revitalising treatment that incorporates carboxi therapy to combat the signs of ageing; the Gents Facial – created for the specific requirements of men's skin and inspired by the techniques used by traditional barbers; and the Bamboo Scrub – a body scrub formulated with bamboo micro-particles to massage and exfoliate the skin.



8 **JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa due to open**

JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts, the distinctive brand of Marriott International, opens its first Italian hotel in Venice and first resort in Europe this month. The 266-room property, created in collaboration with award-winning Italian architect firm Matteo Thun & Partners, has an exceptional lagoon location on its own island, with stunning views of St Mark's Square and La Serenissima and the largest spa in Venice at 1,750 metres, which is operated by GOCO Hospitality. JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa combines contemporary hotel design with the heritage and elegance of its location, bringing the historic buildings and parklands of Isola delle Rose (Rose Island) back to life as an



urban resort. The hotel buildings have been sensitively refurbished to incorporate sustainable, modern and elegant design within the historic building. The rooms and suites are simply decorated with locally made bricks, glass and tiles to reflect the artisanal talent and styles of the region. "The opening of our first property in Italy marks a time of great growth and development for the JW Marriott brand," said Mitzi Gaskins, Vice President and Global Brand Manager for JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts.

9 **Inkaterra to open new luxury hacienda**

Inkaterra are set to open a new luxury "Peruvian farmhouse", Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, in the Sacred Valley in Peru. The 12 room hacienda will open its doors this month, with a further 24 casitas joining the property in July. Ideally located between historical Cusco and Ollantaytambo, the hacienda is the ideal location for adventurous travellers to acclimatise before a journey to Machu Picchu, soaking up the culture, cuisine and history of The Sacred Valley. Renowned for their 40 years of sustainable tourism in Peru, Inkaterra has designed the property to emphasise their core philosophy of respecting the environment. The 12-acre farm surrounding the hacienda will be managed using traditional tools such as oxen and "tacclas" (Andean foot ploughs) and the hotel design uses local materials, art and design to create an "Andean luxury" interior design concept.

10 **Stanbrook Abbey opens for overnights**

On 1st March, Stanbrook Abbey, part of the AmaZing Venues collection of distinctive properties, is opening the main building of the historic structure for overnight stays with the introduction of 52 luxury bedrooms. The Abbey is a 1625-built former silent-order monastery complete with chapel and bell tower set in 21 acres of countryside, close to the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, England. The multi-million refurbishment has taken two years and has included knocking the small nuns' cells into more generously proportioned bedrooms and installing central heating and plumbing throughout the new suites. "The opening of the luxury bedrooms marks an important point in the development of the property and gives more guests the chance to experience the magic and heritage of the venue", says AmaZing Venues founder and chairman Mike Clare. The largest suite in the abbey is the cardinal suite, which features a king-sized bed, private lounge area and a balcony with views over the surrounding grounds.