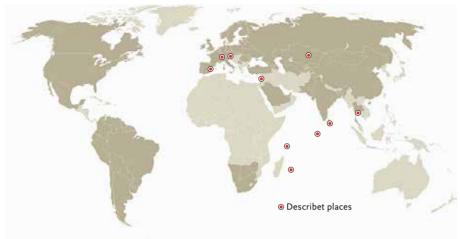


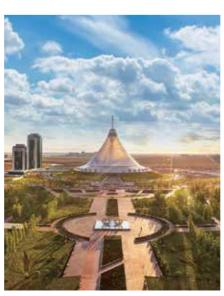


## CONTENT | February 2018









4	Editorial
	On Top
	<ul> <li>Hotel, restaurant, and airline news</li> </ul>
6	Cover Story
12	• Slow life in a seaside hotel
	Tried&Tested
18	• B747-400 Club World
	• Orient Jerusalem Hotel with a View
20	of the Holy City • Ceylon Tea Trails
24 26	• Cape Weligama
28	<ul> <li>Hotel Ibis Styles Grudziądz</li> <li>Monument Hotel</li> </ul>
30 32	• Monument Hotel  • Dusit Thani
_	Report
34	• Dreamliner
	Hotels
	Mercure Krakow Stare Miasto
40	A modern hotel inspired by history
-	<ul> <li>New Design at Sheraton</li> <li>Warsaw Hote</li> </ul>
42	Destinations
4.4	
44 54	<ul><li>Paradise on the Ocean</li><li>Dawn breaks</li></ul>
6 <sub>4</sub>	• 4 hours in Astana
	Fashion
52	• Ski Fashion
	Businessman on Holidays
-0	• Feasting in the Dolomites
58	Business
60	• Find your voice

Ask Peter | 66



#### **Business Traveller Poland**

ul. Tamka 16, lok. 4, 00-349 Warszawa tel.: +48 22 455 38 14, faks: +48 22 455 38 13 www.businesstraveller.pl

Redaktor naczelna Marzena Mróz

m.mroz@businesstraveller.pl

Dyrektor artystyczna Barbara Scharf

b.scharf@businesstraveller.pl

Skład/łamanie LACRIMA

lacrima.barbarascharf@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo ul. Tamka 16, lok. 4

R&S Media sp. z o.o. oo-349 Warszawa

tel.: +48 22 455 38 14 faks: +48 22 455 38 13

Wydawca Robert Grzybowski

robertg@businesstraveller.pl

Szef serwisu Filip Gawryś

Reklama, sponsoring biuro@businesstraveller.pl

www.businesstraveller.pl f.gawrys@businesstraveller.pl

Dystrybucja, prenumerata Piotr Grzybowski

p.grzybowski@businesstraveller.pl

Druk LOTOS Poligrafia sp. z o.o.

04-987 Warszawa ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 98

tel.: 22 872 22 66 www.lotos-poligrafia.pl

Business Traveller Julian Gregory

Managing Director Panacea Media

Lower Ground Floor 41-43 Maddox Street

London

W1S 2PD tel.: +44 20 7821 2700

www.panaceapublishing.com www.businesstraveller.com

In the US "Business Traveller" is published at 303 Fifth Avenue, 1308, NY 10016, tel.: 1 212 725 3500. In Germany "Business Traveller" is published at Schulstrasse 34, 80634 Munich, tel.: 89 167 9971, fax: 89 167 9937. In Denmark "Business Traveller" is published at Rymarksvej 46, 2900 Hellerup, tel.: 45 3311 4413, fax: 45 3311 4414. In Hungary "Business Traveller" is published at 1074 Budapest, Munkas utca 9, tel.: 36 1266 5853. In Hong Kong "Business Traveller Asia-Pacific and China" are published at Suite 405 4/F Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, tel.: 852 2594 9300, fax: 852 2519 6846 In the Middle East "Business Traveller Middle East" is published jointly by Motivate Publishing, PO Box 2331, Dubai UAE, tel.: 9714 282 4060, and Perry Publications. In Africa "Business Traveller Africa" is published by Future Publishing (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 3355, Rivonia 2128, South Africa, tel.: 27 11 803 2040.

© 2009 Perry Publications Ltd - a subsidiary of Panacea Publishing International Ltd, United Kingdom



## ISLANDS OF **OPPORTUNITIES**

onging for the sun we often decide to visit exotic islands. Maldives and Mauritius are perfect destinations for those seeking high temperatures, which you won't find in Europe at this time of the year.

When the Maldives first made it onto the tourist map 45 years ago, it was all rustic huts and rough-andready liveaboard dive trips. Those days are long gone now. But fast forward to 2017 and you will find superyachts, ice rinks, luxurious overwater villas with butlers, expansive spas, great chefs and feats of engineering, such as the world's largest underwater restaurant.

The Maldives has diversified its activity holidays too.

Mauritius, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of South Africa, is considered to be one of the most



beautiful places in the world. For many Europeans and Americans it embodies the fantasy of a tropical paradise. Formerly under the rule of the French, Dutch and English, today the independent Mauritius is famous for its sandy beaches and sophisticated hotels where Tony Blair, Paul McCartney and Pierce Brosnan spend their holidays.

The fairytale-like resort of St Geran regularly hosts the singer Chris de Burgh, Prince Maurice is the favourite destination of the world's royalty, while in Royal Palm with a bit of luck you can come across J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter

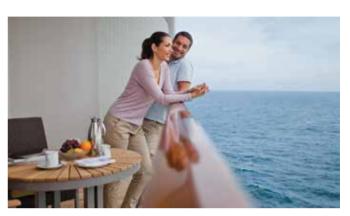
For more facts about those fabulous places, read the article "The Paradise on the Ocean". I hope it will inspire you to pay a visit to one of those exotic islands in winter.





## www.celebritycruises.pl ul. Tamka 16, lok.4, 00-349 Warszawa tel. 004822 455 38 48











### Winter

Austria

#### SKIING IN ISCHGL

Ischgl in Tyrolean Paznaun Valley offers not only quality fun in one of the largest ski areas in the Alps, but also a wide choice of new attractions every year, and a cornucopia of unique entertainment programmes. The most important events of the upcoming season are "Top of the Mountain" concerts with international music stars, the 25th "Shapes in White" snow sculpture competition and the "Chefs' Star Cup". The novelties include the new six-seat Palinkopf D1 chair lift, the revamped Alp Trida restaurant (situated at 2,263 m) and cross-country skiing.

The town of Ischgl inhabited by just 1,600 people, lies at 1,377 metres in the sunlit valley between the Silveretta and the Verwall mountain ranges. It neighbours the municipalities of Galtur, Kappl and See.

238 kilometres of perfectly groomed ski runs and one of the largest freestyle parks in Europe guarantee exceptional experiences throughout the whole season, that is from 23 November 2017 to 1 May 2018. 45 comfortable ski lifts and cable cars take guests directly from the centre of Samnaun to the cross-border winter sports arena, which stretches all the way to the Swiss town of Samnaun. The novelties in 2017/2018 season include the silent six-person Palinkopf D1 chair-lift with wide ergonomic seats, providing convenient access to Palinkopf - one of the most beautiful and highest ski resorts in the Alps, lying at an altitude of 2,853 metres. . ischgl.com

### Tea

Dilmah

### WORKSHOPS IN "HERBATA I KAWA" CAFÉ

During a two-hour meeting for tea enthusiasts, hosted by Michał Oszczyk, the manager of the Training Centre at Gourmet Foods - an exclusive representative of the Dilmah brand in Poland, you can learn many facts about the history of tea, its properties, cultivation and processing methods, as well as differences between its varieties. The second part of the meeting is a real challenge, as it involves tasting and recognizing various types of tea, as well as learning the proper way of brewing and serving this delicious beverage.

As you might expect, the largest part of the meeting is devoted to Dilmah tea from Sri Lanka. Dilmah is one of only few companies in the world that produce tea using the traditional method of picking two leaves and the bud by hand, and the tea production and packaging processes take place on site. Today, Dilmah is one of



the most recognizable brands in the world and can be purchased in more than 100 countries. You can choose and enjoy the taste of black, red, green and sun-dried white tea, which boasts health-promoting properties. You can try all those varieties in the café and buy the ones you like to enjoy them at home. Herbata i Kawa is located at Waryńskiego 28 street, Warsaw, at Constitution Square. facebook.com/herbataikawa



## Airline

Air France

## FROM WROCŁAW TO PARIS

On 26 May Air France will launch its new Wrocław - Paris service. Wrocław is Poland's fourth city after Warsaw, Krakow and Gdańsk that now provides passengers with access to the vast flight network of Air France-KLM Group. In the summer schedule Air France aircraft will fly directly from Paris to Wrocław seven times a week. The combined offer of Air France-KLM Group currently includes 328 cities in 118 countries. Until recently Polish passengers could enjoy the services of the French-Dutch group only in one Polish city - Warsaw. However, in the last three years the group has rapidly expanded in the Polish market. In May 2015. KLM launched a connection from Krakow to Amsterdam, and last year the Dutch carrier added Gdańsk to its flight network. Following the inauguration of the new Air France service from Wrocław to Paris, the Air France-KLM Group will offer a total of 82 flights a week from Polish airports. This means doubling the number of connections offered by the group from and to Poland in just three years.



PRESS MATERIALS, FOTOLIA

## Business Traveller na tablety i smartfony za darmo!





## Szczyrk

#### Winter runs

#### **NEW INVESTMENT**

A modern ten-seater gondola to Małe Skrzyczne, two heated six-seater chair lifts on Solisko and Wierch Pośredni slopes, as well as modern snowmaking system - these are some of the exciting novelties prepared this season for skiers in Szczyrk. This investment is carried out by Slovakian developer Tatra Mountain Resorts, which has expanded the well-known ski resorts in Slovakia, such as Chopok, Tatra Lomnica and Strbskie Pleso. In addition to the new lifts, the investment has also involved widening some of the runs and creating new ones. One of the main attractions is evening skiing (6-9 pm) on two runs with a total length of 5 kilometres! Prices are quite attractive . A one-day ski pass is available for just PLN 79, while a six-day option costs PLN 420. szczyrkowski.pl

## **Krynica**

#### Hotel SPA Dr Irena Eris

#### **ICONIC BRAND**

Hotel SPA Dr Irena Eris in Krynica now boasts new décor. The revamp covered the hotel restaurant, bar and the lobby with the reception area. As a result, the public area of the hotel is now larger than before. Przy Kominku bar has been combine with the lobby, which now has café tables and stylish chairs. It's now a perfect place to enjoy the warmth of the fireplace. Szósty Zmysł restaurant has received a new, more modern décor and now offers more tables. The facelift also included refurbishment of some guest rooms, which have now received new bathrooms. Now you can not only feast your eyes with the stunning views on Jaworzyna Krynicka and the valley stretching at its feet, but also enjoyt the comforts offered by the new spaces in friendly atmosphere. Dr Irena Eris SPA is an iconic brand in the Polish spa market, with over 20 years of tradition in creating trends in the business. DrIrenaErisSpa.com





## **Zakopane**

Aries Hotel & SPA

#### **PRIZE-WINNER**

In December 2017, St. Moritz in Switzerland, hosted the awards gala of the international competition "World Luxury Hotel Awards 2017". Every year, hotels from over 120 countries enter this prestigious competition, hoping to win the official title of a luxury property. The winners of this year's edition were chosen based on a total of 300,000 online votes by travellers and hotel guests. Interestingly, this year only four Polish properties were nominated. The undisputed winner, however, was Aries Hotel & SPA - a real gem of Zakopane, combining regional style with modern solutions. The property received two awards: Luxury Mountain Hotel 2017 in Poland and Luxury Hotel 2017 for the region of Eastern Europe. It's undoubtedly a great and truly deserved accolade for this unique property set at the foot of the Polish Tatra Mountains, as well as for the whole Polish hospitality industry. **hotelaries.pl** 







### Hotels

Słoneczny Zdrój Medical SPA & Wellness

### THE PLACE TO TAKE CARE **OF YOUR HEALTH**

This designer and modern hotel stands out with its elegance and high standard of offered services. Using the advantages of natural sources of sulphide water, Słoneczny Zdrój Medical SPA & Wellness offers a wide range of medical services. The facility offers a comprehensive list of balneotherapy, physiotherapy and kinesitherapy treatments. The modern Vitality Medical SPA & Wellness has 39 treatment rooms equipped with high-end rehabilitation and spa equipment.

The facility also boasts unique Tergumed System 710, which helps to effectively fight ailments of the spine. The hotel is also Poland's only certified centre of BMS - biomechanical muscle stimulation. Vitality Medical SPA & Wellness is also a perfect place to relax. Face and body care treatments are performed here only with high quality products of luxury

Słoneczny Zdrój is also well-known for its Ponidzie restaurant, which serves delicious dishes combining European fusion cuisine with the rich taste of regional products. The restaurant has been listed for the third time in the prestigious "Gault & Millau" guide, which has awarded it one chef's toque. The hotel is also home to Kalejdoskop club and the Winiarnia winery. Guests can use the on-site indoor pool, sauna, sun terrace, garden and the reading room. Those more active will certainly take advantage of the hotel's cardio room, bowling alley, billiards table, boule field, sports hall, outdoor gym and bike rental shop. The youngest holidaymakers can have fun in the Kids Corner and on the playground. The hotel also offers free WiFi, and monitored car park.slonecznyzdroj.pl

### LOT & Yonelle

LOT Business Lounge Polonez

### **UNWIND** AT THE AIRPORT

LOT Polish Airlines and the Yonelle cosmetic brand continue their joint project, which is a Premium Beauty area in LOT Business Lounge Polonez at Chopin Airport.

The dedicated treatment menu has been adapted to the characteristics of the place and expectations of travellers. Passengers waiting for their plane can enjoy six specially developed express cosmetic treatments: Caviscrub. **Express Beauty Treatment, SOS** for the Back, Luxury Hand Rejuvenation, Reflexologic Foot Massage and SOS for the Eves. All the procedures are carried out with Yonelle cosmetics.

From November 2016 to October 2017 almost 3,000 people took advantage of the treatments. The most popular ones are the Express Beauty Treatment, SOS for the Back and the Reflexologic Foot Massage.

"Beauty treatment services are offered only in the most prestigious Executive Lounges in the world. We are proud that with Yonelle's offer, LOT Business Lounge Polonez has joined the world's best airports," says Anna Kowalczyk, who oversees the project for LOT Polish Airlines.





### **Airlines**

**ISC** Ural Airlines

### WARSAW - MOSCOW

On 12 February 2018, Russian carrier JSC Ural Airlines will launch a new route between Moscow and Warsaw. This private airline listed on the Moscow Stock Exchange, currently has a fleet of 43 Airbus aircraft with another seven to join the fleet by the end of the year. The airline has been a member of IATA since 2015 and has IOSA certificate. Aircraft serving the newly launched route will land at Moscow Domodedowo Airport.



## **Airlines**

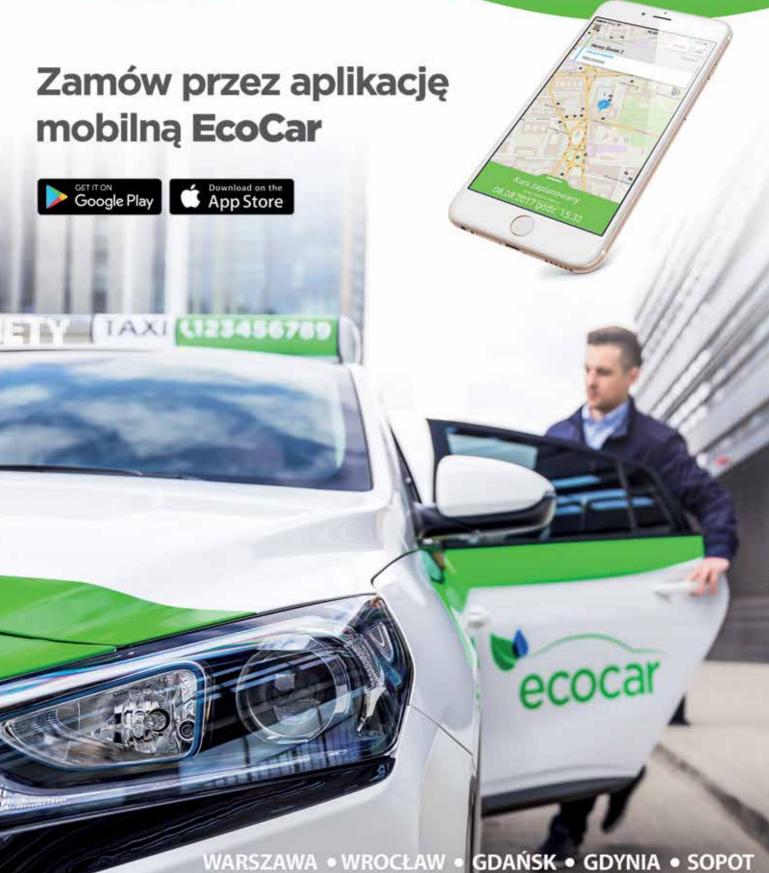
airBaltic

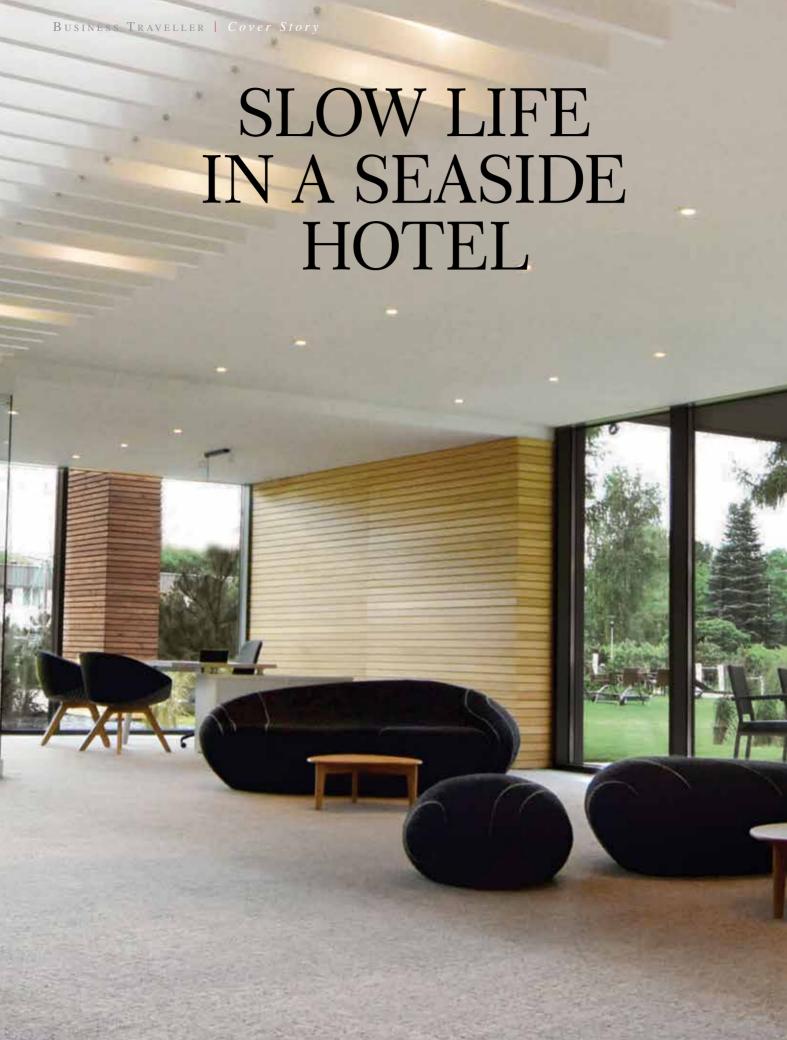
## GDAŃSK – RIGA

At the beginning of the winter season, the Latvian airline airBaltic is increasing its activity on the Polish market. The carrier has doubled the number of flights on Riga - Warsaw - Riga route to 12 weekly connections. The expansion of the airline isn't limited to Warsaw only. Beginning 27 March, airBaltic will relaunch its Riga -Gdańsk - Riga route with three weekly services. The flights will be operated only seasonally. It's worth noting that airBaltic has recently won the title of "the world's most punctual airline".



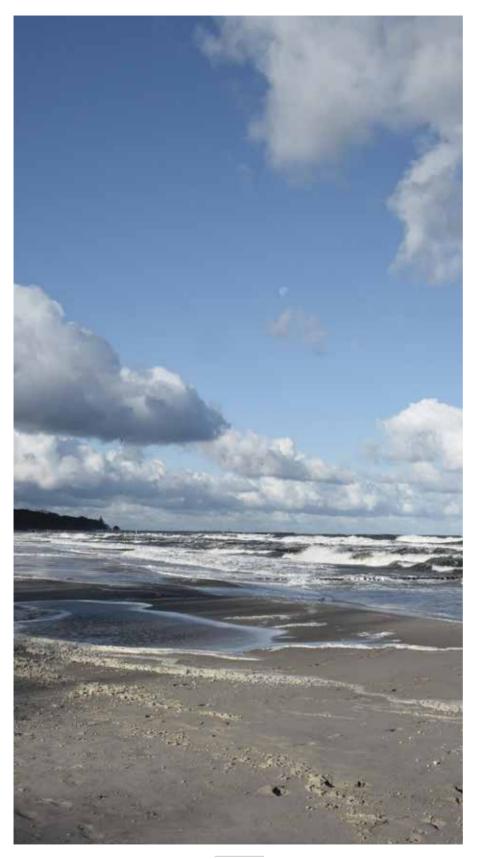
## Zadzwoń +48 123456789





Life here changes its rhythm. The atmosphere is calm and unhurried. Time is of no importance. Enjoy this minimalist elegance and the atmosphere which promotes relaxation. You don't have to do anything. Simply unwind at your own pace...





With the fast-paced life we live today, it's safe to say that everyone needs a moment of rest and escape from everyday life and Wellness ProVita hotel offers ideal conditions to do so.

roVita Wellness hotel is a four-star property situated just 70 metres away from the wide Kołobrzeg beach. Created with the utmost attention to detail, the hotel offers space and atmosphere, which combined serve as a natural tranquillizer. Outside there is a seaside park and the spacious hotel which blends perfectly with the seaside landscape. Inside you will find modern Scandinavian décor, a cosy fireplace, delightful smell of essential oils and exquisite cuisine for real gourmets. Forget the formal dress code; the hotel is all about casual looks and wellness style. You can relax here far from tiring conferences, tedious business meetings and loud nightclubs. The property is just one big chillout zone.

Everything here seems to be balanced and carefully thought out. Simplicity, minimalism, subdued tones, wood and felt touches here and there, as well as tons of natural light. Cosy spaces that guarantee both intimacy and freedom. Soundproofed, comfortable and functional rooms. Hidden TVs. No ads and other unwanted stimuli, which promotes relaxation and attention to what is important here and now.

With smart space arrangement public spaces are never crowded here even at peak occupancy, and everything runs surprisingly smoothly. All the applied solutions contribute to the overall sense of order and inner peace. Consistency and harmony are the main theme for all the interiors - from the lobby, through the reception area, rooms and restaurant to the wellness & spa zone.

#### COMMITTED TO "WELLNESS" STYLE

In ProVita the word "wellness" is not a manifestation of a trend, but a carefully thought out philosophy. The hotel is the place where you can pamper yourself being in close contact with nature. In the place where the emphasis is put on wellness philosophy, time seems to be passing slower and you can relax faster, getting a greater distance to yourself and your everyday life. Wellness is closely connected with attentiveness and unhurried atmosphere. This is exactly what the spa zone at Wellness ProVita is all about. Sauna, yoga and massages are much more effective in such pleasant atmosphere.

Here everything is based on natural, manual procedures, carefully developed in order to produce the best results. This careful attention to detail will help you rediscover massage procedures you thought you have known so well. You should definitely try the Ayurvedic yogic massage, which is barely known in Poland. The procedure combines different Ayurvedic massage techniques

with the use of natural oils, ground herbs and some elements of yoga. It deeply relaxes and revitalises at the same time, nurturing the skin and cleansing the body of toxins.

The spa menu also features signature procedures by TEAM DR JOSEPH. The brand's products are a perfect combination of natural plant ingredients and state-of-the-art technology. Their gentle aromas evoke the pleasant smell of a blooming meadow. With these bio-certified cosmetics, you can take care not only of your skin, but also your health. All this done in a pleasant, relaxing way.

The best results are guaranteed if you combine treatments with physical activity and proper nutrition. Here you have access to the hotel's dietary advice centre, as well as enjoy tasty and aromatic slimming or purifying diets. With the advice of your personal trainer and dietician, you can significantly improve your well-being, check your health and take care of your fitness, vitality and beauty.

After treatments and physical activity you can unwind in the hotel's swimming pool complex or relax in biosauna, steam bath or Finnish sauna overlooking the seaside park.

#### **QUALITY CUISINE**

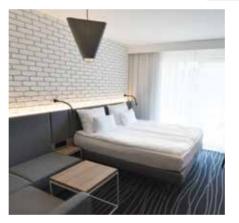
In Wellness ProVita you can also pamper yourself with delicious breakfasts, dinners and dishes served a'la carte. In line with the property's wellness philosophy, the hotel chefs don't go for compromises. Already at the stage of creating the menu, they carefully select high quality products, turning them into delicious dishes. A lot of the ingredients are made on site. The hotel bakery makes several types of bread including gluten-free one. The same goes for pastries. ProVita also produces its own pates, jams, flavoured olive oils and vinegar, as well as dries and smokes meat served in the hotel restaurants. There is also a wide choice of products for vegans and guests with allergies.

In the a' la carte restaurant, in addition to the seasonal menu, you can enjoy dishes from the weekend menu, and pair them with wine of your choice. The wine list consists of 150 different items, including 100 served by the glass. The chefs' great attention to detail and creativity is highly praised by connoisseurs. This is probably why last year the a' la carte restaurant at ProVita was featured for the third time by the reviewers of the Gault&Millau culinary guide, receiving two toques.

Throughout the year the restaurant offers its guests exceptional culinary events. It is the venue for regular wine-themed meet-



You can see here heavy inspiration with the Scandinavian minimalistic style. The interiors are dominated by simple forms, toned colours and natural materials.









#### WHAT EXPERTS SAY



#### dr Franz Linser Founder & CEO Linser Hospitality GmbH, Austria

The hospitality industry is currently undergoing significant changes. Guests now want hotels to be much more than just place to rest and relax. This is caused by a change of our lifestyles: fast-paced life, stress, chasing deadlines, poor nutrition, lack of sleep and exercise. People instinctively feel that simple relaxation is not enough for their well-being. That is why, they look for hotels whose offer will guarantee a positive impact on their lifestyle. They choose properties with an

individual approach to the needs of their guests in terms of nutrition, exercise, sport, recreation, body-detox or relaxation. Wellness ProVita is prepared to cater for such guests and with its comprehensive lifestyle offer it has become a pioneer on the nationwide hotel market.



#### dr Joseph Franz CEO & founder VITALIS Dr. Joseph, Italy

In terms of the wellness offer, ProVita Wellness Hotel is a model property on a global scale. Located directly by the Baltic Sea, with a garden, the Institute of Health offering innovative advice and the excellent Slow Food restaurant, it's a partner pursuing the same goals as ours, in terms of philosophy and holistic approach. The combination of unique holistic treatments with our own SPA menu and certified natural beauty treatments by Team Dr Joseph guarantees visible

results in short time. We are convinced that the goal here is long-term quality. ProVita is Poland's first hotel with who we have partnered. We are happy to continue our collaboration, hoping it will be long and successful.



#### Franka Hänig, Editor-in-Chief, SPA Inside, Germany

Wellness ProVita is an ideal place to unwind, if only because its simple Scandinavian design, which promotes relaxation. Whether in beautiful white and grey rooms, the restaurant or the spa, all spaces are filled with natural light, offer clear forms and feature carefully selected additions. The same high quality is presented by the hotel restaurants, offering delicious dishes, fresh fish and delicious local vegetables. Obviously, my favourite place in the hotel is its spa. You can really spend there a whole day. Take a morning swim then go for manicure or

pedicure. In the afternoon after a long stroll on the beach (which is a stone throw from the hotel), you can enjoy a massage with herbal stamps or facial treatment with biodynamic lifting. As for the evening, I recommend a long session in the hotel's panoramic sauna. My favourite procedure? The Ayurvedic yogic massage. The best option is to go for the longest 2-hour session, which rejuvenates and akes you feel like a newborn baby.

ings, hosted by well-known personalities, including the Polish Sommelier Champion Tomasz Kolecki. Wine tasting is held not only in the lobby by the fireplace, but also in the hotel garden, on the beach and even on the high seas, under the sails. Twice a year, the restaurant holds a unique themed dinner called ProVita & Przyjaciele, organized in collaboration with chefs from other restaurants.

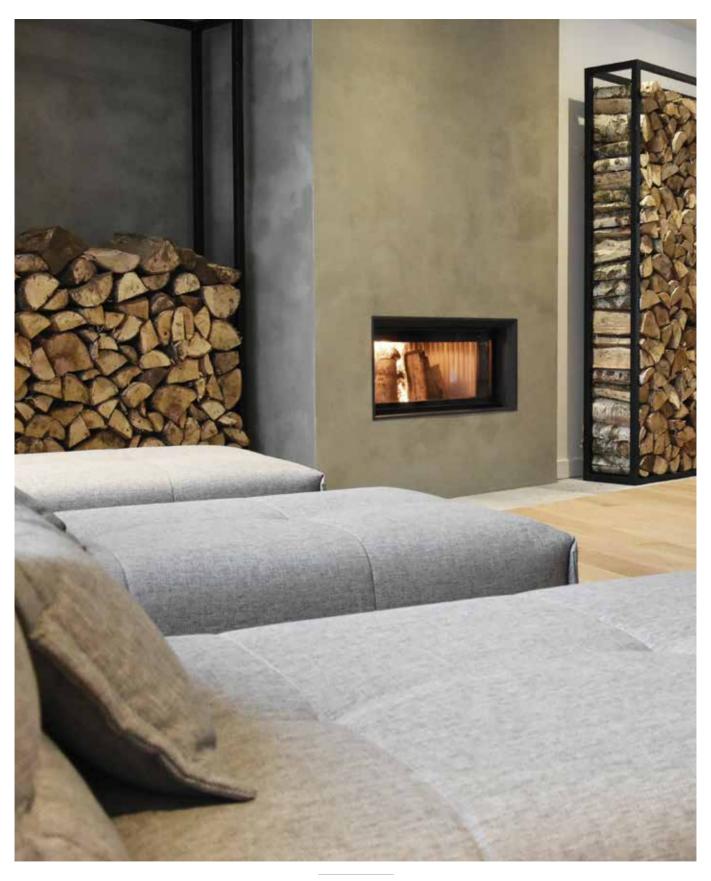
The menu of the most recent event of this type was inspired by the flavors of the orchard and the forest.

The 5th edition of the ProVita & Przyjaciele will take place on 20 April 2018. If you consider yourself a gourmet, you shouldn't miss on this unique opportunity.

#### **INFO**

- Prices for a double room start at PLN 450 per night, PLN 550 at weekends.
- Distance to the beach: 70 m
- Number of rooms: 97
- Garden area: 6,000 sq m
- $\bullet$  Area of the wellness & spa zone: 1,500 sq m
- Health Institute with Dietary Advice Centre
- 2 restaurants, including a'la carte

Hotel Wellness ProVita\*\*\*\*
ul. T. Kościuszki 17
78-100 Kołobrzeg
tel.: +48 94 355 4000
e-mail: recepcja@hotelprovita.pl
www.hotelprovita.pl



The emphasis is put here on simplicity, functionality and cosiness. All the applied solutions contribute to the overall sense of order and inner peace.

### Airline

## **BRITISH AIRWAYS LONDON-NEW YORK**

## B747-400 CLUB WORLD



#### **CONTACT**

www.britishairways.com

#### **PRICE**

Internet rates for a flexible return Club World ticket from London to New York in February range from £1,840 to £8,294.

ritish Airways is rolling out a new service in its Club World (long-haul business class) cabin. This debuted between London Heathrow and New York JFK, and includes changes to the way food and drink are served, along with new bedding and amenities by the White Company.

The intention is for these improvements to be rolled out across North American routes, with both Boston and Washington DC seeing the new bedding by the end of 2017. By the end of 2018, the changes will have taken place on all Heathrow routes. Gatwick routes will be last, but these will start being updated towards the end of 2018.

This flight was on a B747-400 configured with the "superhigh-J" cabin - that is, 86 business class seats split across the main deck and the upper deck. As many airlines are saying goodbye to the B747, the jumbo continues to play a part in British Airways' fleet, despite the airline buying B787s (both dash 8 and dash 9 versions see our Dreamliner feature). A380s have also been bought and A350s are on order for delivery in 2019 with a new business class seat on board. Meanwhile, for regulars on the B747, the small changes on board are noticeable.

#### **CHECK-IN**

This was the 1120 departure from London Heathrow to New York, a flight time of 7 hours and 30 minutes. We took off at 1150, slightly late.

#### **BOARDING**

I was directed to my seat, which was 20A, towards the

rear of the middle (main) cabin of the three Club World cabins on this B747-400. This is a rear-facing window seat with uninterrupted access to the aisle.

I was asked if I wanted champagne, orange juice or water, my jacket was hung and I was given a bottle of water at the same time as the amenity pack. The White Company amenity bag included a toothbrush and toothpaste, a soft eye mask, ear plugs, some lip balm, moisturiser, plus a balm called Pulse Point that is supposed to help you sleep.

#### THE SEAT

The new bedding was waiting at the seat. This comprised a large pillow, a smaller pillow and a large bag containing the mattress topper, duvet and blan-

#### THE FLIGHT

The drinks service has changed, so merits special mention. There's a choice of spirits including gins (Gordon's or Tanqueray). To avoid mess on the tables, the drinks are pre-poured, so vou don't have the little miniature of gin and can of Fever-Tree tonic water brought to your table. Instead, you are given a single measure (half the miniature) rather than a double-measure. If vou want the entire double measure, you need to ask for it. Bear in mind that although the new glasses being used are lovely, they are not very large, so your drink will be very strong.

The new menu is presented differently. The flight attendants ask for your main course choices, but you choose starters from a trolley as it comes through the cabins. The attendants were experienced at this, but it's a slow system. The tray with bread and water was given to me at around 1330, and then we waited for the trolley to work its way towards us from the front cabin, through the galley, and then the main cabin. Our starters arrived at 1350. There were no drinks with that: wine came through later.

The flight attendants were attentive and enthusiastic, enjoying explaining the new service to passengers. The choice of starters included a roasted

beef carpaccio with horseradish crème fraîche; smoked red pepper soup with cheese straws; or a "tapas selection" comprising tuna and tomato tart, avocado, jamón ibérico and Manchego. I had the carpaccio, which was delicious, and the soup, which I thought was too salty. Mains were then brought to each seat. Options included braised beef cheeks and aubergine with tomato salsa and pommes au gratin: poached Loch Fyne salmon fillet with spinach watercress mousseline and pan-fried potatoes; or truffled mascarpone tortelloni with grilled asparagus. I had the heritage breed beef cheeks, which were tender and very tasty. The choice of desserts included tiramisu. fresh mango with vanilla crème fraîche, or a warm chocolate soufflé. There was also a cheese board with Chevington, Shropshire Blue, Applewood Cheddar, walnuts, grapes and apple pear chutney. I opted for the cheeses and didn't regret it - they were all fresh and delicious.

The wine choices included three champagnes. The whites were a Piedmontese Gavi or a South African Sauvignon Blanc; the reds were a California Pinot Noir or a Barossa Valley Shiraz. After dining I retrieved the White Company products and reclined my seat, laying out the mattress topper and making use of the blanket, duvet and eyemask. I slept for a couple of hours and found it very comfortable. The topper enhances the comfort levels, as there is the sensation of having something between you and the seat cushion.

I woke in time for the afternoon service. I was too full to do this justice, but the selection was much greater than previously, with sandwiches (ham, egg, cheese or smoked salmon) and a dish of prawns, mozzarella and grilled vegetables.

We landed at JFK on time and were at the stand and into immigration without delay.

#### **VERDICT**

A huge amount of time and effort has gone into these Club World changes, and they are a definite improvement in terms of quality and choice. While the trolleys make the meal more of an event, they also slow things down; the service was a lot quicker when you could choose your starter and main at the same time, and they arrived when the tray was put in front of you. It's good that the crew are enthused about the new approach to service. This is a big investment by British Airways both in quality and training, and the White Company products are lovely.

Tom Otley

### **USEFUL INFO**

- The White Company bedding and amenity bags, and the meal
- flight time: 7 hours 30 minutes
- configuration: 2-4-2 / 2-2
- bed length: 72in/183cm
- seat width: 20.5in/52cm
- seat recline: 180 degrees







Hotel **JERUSALEM** 

## ORIENT JERUSALEM

## Hotel with a View of the Holy City



#### **CONTACT**

Orient Jerusalem Emek Refaim Street 3, 9310402 Jerusalem, Israel tel.: 02 569 9090 www.isrotel.com/orient

#### **PRICE**

From US\$252 per room per night

f you ever wish to visit Jerusalem, the new Orient Jerusalem, which opened at the end of last year, should be the hotel of your first choice. With its location close to the Old Town and five star quality (which is quite rare in Jerusalem), the property guarantees a pleasant stay.

Opened in autumn 2017 by the Israeli Isroel group, Orient Jerusalem is the chain's only property in the Holy City. Founded in 1984 by David Lewis, Isrotel boasts a high quality collection of hotels situated throughout the country, including Royal Beach Eilat, Royal Beach Tel Aviv, Cramin, Bereheet and Carmel Forest Resort. Orient Jerusalem, the latest addition to Isrotel's portfolio, was designed by the world-famous Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA) studio, whose portfolio includes such well-known properties as Shangri-La in Dubai, Hilton Shoushan and InterContinental Shanghai National Exhibition & Convention Centre.

The new property has an undoubtedly interesting history, combining two historic buildings from the end of the 19th century, which were built as the so-called German Colony by the members of Temple Society - a group of German settlers in Palestine. Today the hotel houses a small museum dedicated to this German community, with artefacts from the 19th century and a film depicting their history.

Renovation of the old buildings was carried out by Eyal Ziv together with a group of architects from the family company Feigin Architects. Combining the new glass covered central building and the thoroughly renovated historic buildings, they were able to create a harmonious whole.

#### WHERE IS IT?

Located just 1.5 km from the city centre and 2 km from the western walls of the city and the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, Orient Jerusalem is the perfect place to stay when visiting Jerusalem. The hotel complex is situated on a hill, surrounded by small apartment buildings reminiscent in its character of the European-Mediterranean architecture.

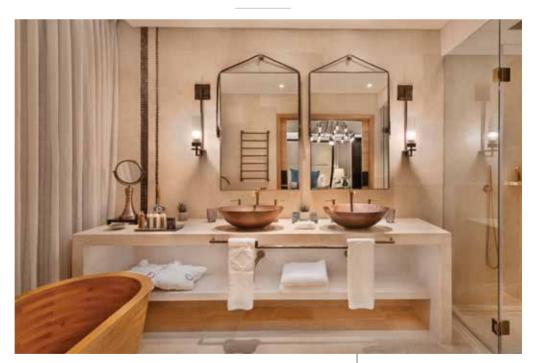
It's also a good starting point for exploring another important town for Christians - Bethlehem, which lies just 10 kilometres away. Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv is 54 kilometres away from the hotel.

#### **ROOMS**

Orient Jerusalem offers 243 rooms and suites. These include Garden Room Orient Jerusalem (36 sqm with a private garden), Old City View Room (floors 5-9, 36 sqm, with a balcony and a beautiful view of the Old Town), Family Suite (62 sqm, ideal for families with up to two children), Colony Room (located in the historic wing of the hotel, 35-48 sqm) and Old City View Suite (a 55 sqm suite



All rooms in Orient Jerusalem are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including free broadband Internet and LCD TVs with access to additional hotel services.



with a view of the Old Jerusalem and access to the hotel lounge).

There is also the 150 sqm Presidential Suite, situated on the highest, ninth floor of the building, featuring a vast terrace overlooking the Old Town. The suite comprises a bedroom,

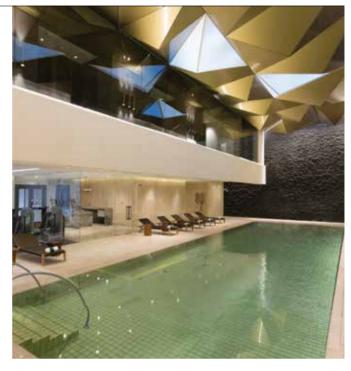
a spacious lounge, kitchen and a dining area.

All rooms in Orient Jerusalem are equipped with state-ofthe-art technology, including free broadband Internet and LCD TVs with access to additional hotel services.



#### **JEROZOLIMA** Hotel





It's, undoubtedly, one of the best hotel options in the Holy City that will satisfy the needs of even the most discerning guests.

One of the décor highlights is the original, eye-catching detailing with skilful combination of various materials such as stone, wood, tiles and glass. Many functional elements such as bed frames or soap dishes - were made by local craftsmen.

#### **RESTAURANTS**

Hotel restaurants provide a real cuisine mix that is worth trying, especially in Israel, which draws heavily on the Middle Eastern and Arabic traditions. This means that you will find there lots of hummus and other Lebanese specialities, as well as typically Kosher, but also purely European cuisine.

There is also an excellent selection of fine wines, not only from Europe and the New World, but also those produced in Israel, often unfairly underestimated on the Old Continent.

#### **SPA AND ATTRACTIONS**

One of the biggest highlights of Orient Jerusalem is the Isrotel's Carmel Forest SPA, which is a signature facility for all Isrotel's Exclusive Collection properties.

Hotel guests can enjoy here more than 70 various relaxing treatments with the use of cosmetics by high-end global brands, such as Dermalogica, Christina or Biotone. There are seven luxury treatment rooms, a specially designated zone around the rooftop pool, dry saunas, Turkish hamam bath, an indoor swimming pool with heated water, several fitness rooms, a beauty salon, a designer boutique, as well as an outdoor rooftop pool open from spring to autumn.

The wide choice of spa treatments includes classical procedures, such as hot stone massage, and Eastern ones based on Ayurveda, shiatsu or abhyangi. Ladies can opt for a rejuvenating and luxury facial mask, which includes particles of 24-karat gold.

#### **BUSINESS**

Although Orient Jerusalem was designed as a typical leisure property, you can also organize a company or family meeting here both for smaller and larger number of participants. In total, the hotel offers more than

1,300 sqm of conference space, for various events. These can be, for example, small board meetings, but should you need it, it's possible to organize here a large gala event for up to 600 people.

Each event is overlooked by the hotel's conference centre, providing the organizers with state-of-the-art technological solutions, as well as excellent catering options, combining Jewish and Arabic culinary traditions.

#### **VERDICT**

Orient Jerusalem is undoubtedly one of the best hotel options in the Holy City that will satisfy the needs of even the most discerning guests. Some of the highlights include the "new" feel of the property, which can be seen anywhere throughout the building, and truly excellent location close to the centre of Jerusalem and overlooking the Old Town. Note that there are only few good five-star hotels in the Holy City, and Orient Jerusalem is, without a doubt one of the best you can get.

Rafał Sobiech



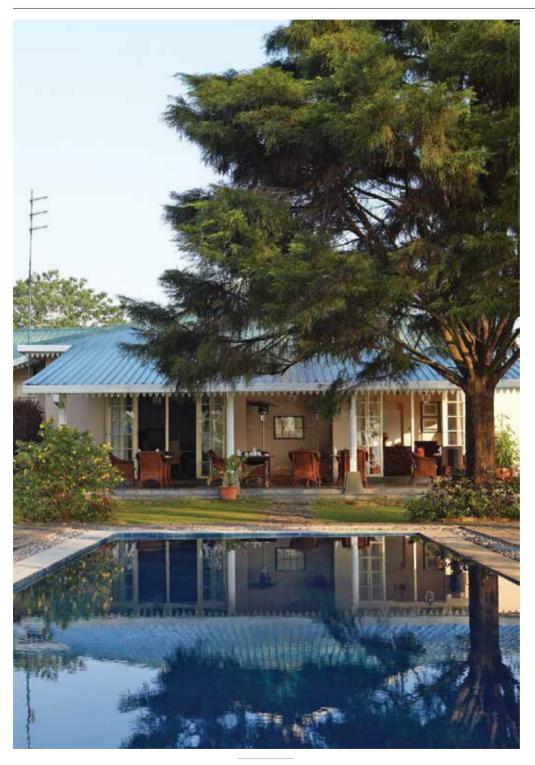
Although Orient Jerusalem was designed as a typical leisure property, you can also organize a company or family meeting here both for smaller and larger number of participants.





Hotel **SRI LANKA** 

## CEYLON TEA TRAILS



Each bungalow comprises from four to six rooms and suites, featuring unique décor.

erched at an altitude of 1250 metres, among breathtaking views of forest hills and palm forests, gushing waterfall and tea plantations, is the world's first tea bungalow resort. The Fernando family, the manufacturers of Sri Lanka's most popular tea and the owners of Dilmah brand, have decided to create several small boutique resorts in different parts of the country: in the mountains, by the ocean and outside the Yala National Park. Their aim was to show tourists the extraordinary wealth of nature, the beauty of the country's landscape and history. This world's first tea resort was opened in 2005 and has become one of the world's leading hotels and a member of Relais & Chateaux collection. The old buildings from the late 19th century, once inhabited by English tea plantation administrators, were transformed into luxurious bungalows from the colonial era.

#### WHERE IS IT?

The five restored bungalows are set in the central part of Sri Lanka in the Bogawantalaba region at an altitude of 1,250 metres. Three of them - Castlereagh, Dunkeld and Summerville offer a picturesque view of the Lake Castlereagh. Norwood bungalow is situated amidst scenic green hills and tea bushes, while Tienstin in the next valley. The bungalows are separated from each other by a distance of 2-15 kilometres. You can get to them by bicycle, car or on foot following well-marked trails between hills and tea plantations. From Castlereagh to Summerville you can also take a boat and enjoy the in silence the fairytale landscape passing by. The distance from Colombo Airport

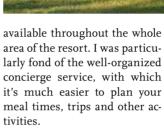


to Hatton is about 175 km (3-4 hour drive), while getting from Kandy to Hatton takes about 2-3 hours by car. If you can afford it, you can always take a helicopter or hydrofoil ride to get to your destination in just 30 minutes.

#### **ROOMS**

Each bungalow comprises from four to six rooms and suites with unique décor. The interiors were designed by famous Singaporean architect Deirdre Renniers, who took care of the tiniest details to perfectly reflect the atmosphere of the colonial era. Vanilla and cinnamon coloured furniture, old drawings, books, and historic photo albums provide the unique charm and elegance of the past

times. Sitting by the fireplace, in the library, in the rose English garden or on the veranda by a glass of a good drink, you can feel like at home, but over a hundred years ago. There are three types of accommodation in each bungalow: LUX rooms, Garden Suites and Master Suites. I stayed in Castlereagh in LUX room with a wonderful view of the flowery garden and the lake. The rooms come with sturdy furniture, comfortable beds with thick mattresses and top-quality bedding, a seating area with sofa and colourful silk pillows, armchairs, and a shower cabin. Free WiFi is



#### **VERDICT**

Spectacular location in the mountains on the lake, stunning views of green hills, blooming gardens and tea plantations. Excellent concierge service. Add to this the unique taste of delicious Dilmah tea and fresh fruit, served straight to your bed. No wonder the resort has been awarded numerous prizes for one of the world's best boutique hotels.



### AWARDS

- Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Award 2012 – Winner Best All Inclusive Resort Asia
- Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Award 2010 – Top 10 All Inclusive Resorts in the World and Top 10 Luxury Hotels in Asia





#### CONTACT

Resplendent Ceylon Pvt Ltd tel.: + 94 11 774 5730 Fax: +94 11 774 5731 reservations@resplendentceylon.com www.resplendentceylon.com

#### **PRICES**

for an all-inclusie suite for two guests start at €829 per night. More information at www.teatrails.com

**SRI LANKA** Hotel

## CAPE WELIGAMA



#### **AWARDS**

- Conde Nast Travellers Hot List 2015 – Winner of Most Exciting **Hotel Openings**
- Travel & Leisure USA 2015 Best New Hotels on the Planet
- Tatler Travel Guide 2015 Best New Hotels
- House & Garden The Most Beautifully Designed Hotels in the World

y the Indian Ocean, in the southern part of Sri Lanka, the Fernando family has created one of the most beautiful holiday resorts for individual tourists and families, now one of the 50 most luxurious hotels in the world. This is the second resort after Ceylon Tea Trails, which is a member of the Relais & Chateaux luxury hotel collection. There is much to impress guests with, including the impressive location of the property on a high cliff, fascinating interior design and top quality furnishings. One of the greatest attractions of the resort is its

60-metre long, crescent-shaped infinity pool, situated right on the edge of the cliff, overlooking the ocean. It creates an extraordinary impression of a continuous water cascade flowing from the pool to the ocean.

#### WHERE IS IT?

The resort is located in a truly spectacular place. The 12 luxury private villas and suites were thoughtfully created at the top of the cliff, 40 metres above the ocean in the area of about 12 acres of lush vegetation. Getting here from Colombo Airport, takes a 2-3 hour drive on expressway. You can also rent an

airtaxi to get to you villa in just 30 minutes. There are a number of interesting attractions around the resort, including the town of Galle (26 kilometres away from Weligama), which is UNESCO World Heritage site. You can see there a historic fort built by the Dutch, as well as a lighthouse erected by the British in 1890. There is also the Udawalawe National Park nearby.

#### **ROOMS**

The resort was opened in 2014 and almost immediately received an award for the world's best new hotel and extraor-





dinary design solutions. Not surprisingly though, since the property was designed by the world renowned architect Lek Bunnag. The resort comprises 39 private villas and suites with their own garden and swimming pool. Each is named after a famous traveller, writer or explorer, e.g. Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta or Fa-Hsien. I stayed in Robert Knox villa. The spacious residences, each with a large terrace, range from 130 to 310 sqm, are very comfortable and well-furnished. All come equipped with a flat screen TV

with cable channels, a coffee machine and Sonos sound system with a large music library. The bathroom has two washbasins, a shower cabin made of stone, a bathtub on legs, and a steam bath. The villa's huge terrace with comfortable loungers and garden furniture, offers views of the private garden, pool or ocean. Each villa also comes with concierge service with which you can order meals, drinks, fruit or massage. The resort has three restaurants (Ocean Terrace, Cape Club and Ocean Grill) with a magnificent ocean view. All serve Sri Lankan and European cuisine prepared with local spices.

#### **VERDICT**

With its fabulous views, luxury furnishings and professional concierge service, Cape Weligama is the perfect place to relax. Add to this the delicious Sri Lankan and European dishes, daily cup of exquisite aromatic Dilmah tea, clean sandy beaches and warm ocean, and you can say that the resort is a true paradise on earth.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska

#### CONTACT

Resplendent Ceylon Pvt Ltd tel.: + 94 11 774 5730 fax: +94 11 774 5731 reservations@resplendentceylon.com www.resplendentceylon.com

#### **PRICES**

From US\$474 for a double suite per night.

More information at www.capeweligama.com









Hotel **GRUDZIADZ** 

## HOTEL IBIS STYLES GRUDZIĄDZ



#### CONTACT

ibis Styles Grudziądz ul. Piłsudskiego 18 86-300 Grudziądz tel.: +48 56 696 8911

he times of battling knights and princesses locked in high towers are long gone. However, Ibis Styles Grudziądz is an ideal place for all those who would like to feel the atmosphere of that past era. Though I need to say, that the offered luxuries are far from medieval...

#### **MODERN FORT WITH HINTS FROM HISTORY**

Ibis Styles is the most creative brand within the ibis family, mostly due to its individual approach to interior design of each hotel, based on one principle: all properties should be cheerful, joyful and modern at the same time. Each hotel is decorated in

a different style, according to the selected theme.

Offering 87, comfortable, airconditioned rooms, ibis Styles Grudziądz is the perfect example of this approach of the brand. Guests are particularly fond of the hotel's bar and restaurant where you can enjoy a number of delicious international dishes, served in a fairytale-like setting. I particularly recommend the spicy Asian chilli soup and delicious juicy sirloin steaks served with roasted potatoes, spinach and béarnaise sauce. The hotel has a well-equipped conference centre with six spacious rooms often used by business travellers. All guests can also use the onsite attended car park. The building has been adapted for people with disabilities and equipped with free Wi-Fi.

#### **SPACES WITH HISTORY**

Designed by the Tremend architect studio, the property was launched in 2017. Its design harks back to the rich local history of the town, at the same time meeting contemporary expectations of guests. The modern forms take hints from the knights' culture - the reception counter is decorated with a chainmail-like material while curtains look like giant battle banners. On the walls there are pictures of knights, presented in a humorous way: wearing sneakers or riding a pony. The dining spaces are also packed with medieval analogies, with long wooden tables allowing for a truly royal feast. Those who prefer to enjoy their meal in peace and quiet can opt for a special corner in form of a granary with an overhanging roof. The unique character of the interior is complemented by simple colourscheme based on white and grey tones with turquoise and copper accents and by combination of various materials, such as wood, metal and soft fabrics.

#### SIMPLICITY AND HARMONY

Similar style dominates in guest rooms, combining tasteful eclecticism and pleasant symmetry. The hotel offers single, double and family rooms, as well as suites – all with modular layout and the extremely comfortable Sweed Bed by ibis Styles. The suite for four-person families has also a separate kitchen.

## IN THE VERY HEART OF GRUDZIADZ

The hotel is located opposite the town stadium, in the very centre of Grudziądz. With its close proximity to the old town, it's the perfect base for exploring local attractions and discovering its historic sites. It's definitely the best choice for both business and leisure travellers.

#### THE TOWN'S LANDMARK

Undoubtedly, ibis Styles Grudziądz reflects the unique characteristics of the town where it's located. Its industrial décor and calm atmosphere facilitate both work and relaxation. The modern design of the property, harking back to the region's history, is one of the biggest highlights of ibis Styles Grudziądz. The property's austere interiors combined with the modernist design create a cosy atmosphere, giving a sense of comfort and security. Guests love the hotel for its functional public spaces, spacious rooms and a fairytallike atmosphere, allowing them to break away from everyday life for a while.







**BARCELONA** Hotel

## MONUMENT HOTEL





#### CONTACT

Passeig de Gracia 75, 08008 Barcelona; +34 935 482 000; www.monumenthotel.com

#### **PRICE**

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in February started from £243 for a Deluxe room.

his is a new hotel housed in an old mansion dating back to the late 19th century. The house, commissioned by the industrialist Enric Batllo, was built between 1895 and 1896 by a pre-Modernista architect.

#### WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The building has been completely renovated and upgraded, and is now run separately as a five-star hotel complete with two restaurants including Lasarte, which holds three Michelin stars. The neo-Gothic façade of the building, with its detailed brickwork, stone, ceramic and wrought iron, is impressive, as are the several doormen waiting to greet customers. A central staircase winds its way up through the house, and there are small wooden seats set into the corners as the stairs turn (the property would not originally have had an elevator). Thankfully, there are also two new glass-doored elevators taking you up to the rooms and also down to the spa and the small fitness centre on the lower ground floor.

#### WHERE IS IT?

On the corner of Passeig de Gracia and Carrer de Mallorca, close to the La Pedrera building and minutes from Casa Batllo.

#### **ROOMS**

All rooms are accessed along atmospherically lit corridors, which are decorated in dark brown shades. The rooms have brickwork walls (not original, but added during the renovation), giving an elegant loft-like feel, along with oak wood flooring and furniture. Entry-level Deluxe rooms are 24 sqm, and overlook either Carrer de Mallorca or the courtyard. The beds are extremely comfortable with 300-thread Egyptian cotton bedding and Ferdown duvets, a large Loewe TV, Bluetooth audio systems, Jacob Jensen telephones and, in the bathrooms, Jo Malone toiletries, velour bathrobes and underfloor heating.

#### **FOOD AND DRINK**

The hotel has two restaurants -Oria, which is where breakfast is served (à la carte or a selection from a set menu, but no buffet) and the top-dollar Lasante, which is part of chef Martín Berasategui's extensive empire.

#### **MEETINGS**

Guests can book meeting facilities in the Hotel Condes opposite.

#### **LEISURE**

The hotel has a small spa and fitness centre, but no pool.

#### **VERDICT**

This is an outstanding hotel with a really beautiful exterior and interior, preserving the history of the building while creating something entirely contemporary. The service is superb - during a two-day stay we did not have to open the front door ourselves once, and were always greeted with a smile when returning after a few hours or a whole day away.

Tom Otley







## www.royalcaribbeancruises.pl

ul. Tamka 16, lok. 4, 00-349 Warszawa info@rccl.pl, tel.: 00 22 455 38 48



**BANGKOK** Hotel

## DUSIT THANI





#### CONTACT

946 Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10500: +66 2200 9000;

www.dusit.com

#### **PRICE**

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in February started from £102 for a Superior room.

he Dusit Thani will close on April 16, 2018, to be knocked down and redeveloped. A new Dusit Thani hotel will reopen in 2022 on the same site, but as part of a mixed-use development.

When it first opened in 1970 it was the tallest building in Bangkok – 100 metres to the tip of the spire, which was inspired by the landmark Wat Arun temple.

#### WHAT'S IT LIKE?

In its final months but still going strong, the Dusit Thani has an old-world charm without being faded. Both the exterior and interior are beautiful. There is plenty of greenery around the entrance and the gardens (the developers say that many of the trees will be conserved). The hotel's aesthetic benefits from its history, too, with teakwood furnishings and lots of marble giving the interior a classic feel.

#### WHERE IS IT?

Opposite Lumphini Park close to the Skytrain (BTS) Sala Daeng station and also Silom metro station (on the National Stadium -Bang Wa line). A few minutes' walk around the corner is the Silom shopping complex.

#### **ROOMS**

The 517 rooms have exterior views and wood detailing, with mirrors making them feel light and airy. The entry level Deluxe rooms are 30 sqm, while the Dusit Club rooms are 60 sqm and allow access to the full range of Dusit Club privileges, including the use of a business centre and late check out. All rooms have free wifi, bottled water, balconies, a mini bar and coffee/tea making facilities, a work desk and satellite TV.

#### **FOOD AND DRINK**

Close to reception is Library 1918, which looks like a bar from the outside but is in fact a tearoom. On the top floor, The 22 Kitchen & Bar has great views and serves seafood, and was once Tiara - Thailand's first supper club, where everyone from Rod Stewart to Stevie Wonder played.

Other options include Thai restaurant Benjarong; Hamilton's Steak House; The Mayflower (Cantonese); The Pavilion (international); Thien Duong (Vietnamese); and also a coffee shop in the downstairs arcade for pastries and cakes.

#### **MEETINGS**

The Napalai Ballroom can host up to 1,500 people and there are several other large function rooms.

As well as the outdoor swimming pool there is a good size gym with aerobics studio, squash court and the Devarana Spa.

#### **VERDICT**

They don't make hotels like this anymore, and more's the shame. It's on a human scale, yet big enough for 48 years of memories. What will (hopefully) remain after the redevelopment is the tradition of service, which throughout our stay was exemplary.

Tom Otley



# Odwiedź nowy portal lotniczy Centrum Lotów

## centrumlotowopl

- ♦ Najniższe opłaty serwisowe
- ♦ okazje Biznes i First
- **tanie linie**
- oferty hotelowe
- dziesiątki porad

sprawdź nas







oth Boeing's Dreamliner, and Airbus's answer to it, the A350 XWB (Extra Wide Body), of which more later, have been deliberately positioned as New Generation. The capitals suggest that they have formed a category all of their own, that they are a step change and represent a technological leap forward. They are made in new ways from new materials and promise a new experience for those who fly them or are flown in them. Following years of waiting and, let's face it, years of delays, these developments have been much anticipated and, now, here they are.

#### TRUE DREAMLINER

Boeing's first B787 was delivered to All Nippon Airways in 2011 and, since then, more

than 600 have followed. Boeing is increasing production in its two B787 factories in the US to 14 per month. Millions of passengers have already flown on them and a fair proportion may have asked themselves whether they noticed the "passenger enhancements" - the fresher air, the larger windows, the quieter cabin, the mood lighting, or the slightly increased cabin pressure that supposedly lessens the ill effects of long-haul travel and even jet lag. It's possible for flyers to debate which aircraft they prefer – the A350, B787, or the double-decker A380. But for the majority of airlines and passengers, the A350 and the B787 have transformed long-haul flying. And as new variants arrive, new routes have opened.

There's a fair chance that you have already flown on the B787 Dreamliner. It has become a significant player in many fleets, including those of Air Canada, Air India, American Airlines, ANA, British Airways, JAL, LOT Polish Airlines, LATAM Chile, Norwegian, Oatar Airways and United. It is in common use across many long-haul routes. In fact, it was designed as a medium-sized, pointto-point aircraft that doesn't need to go via hubs, and can operate cost-effectively on less popular routes. So although British Airways has 25 of them, as a regular flyer between our offices in London and Hong Kong, I know BA will be using its older, and larger. aircraft on routes such as these. (Although that route is twice-daily on either a B777-

### What's special about the Dreamliner?

#### **THE WINGS**

Passengers often don't want to think about the wings, since it seems a miracle that an aircraft can fly without them flapping. But those of the B787 are a thing of beauty. The aircraft is identifiable to even the most inept planespotters by virtue of its raked wingtip (where the wing sweeps upwards at the end). The wings are designed to give the aircraft greater fuel efficiency and allow it to climb more effectively. They also flex. At the Boeing factory I was told that they had a machine that tested how strong the wings were by lifting them upwards until they broke. In the case of the B787, its wings broke the machine instead.

#### REDUCED TURBULENCE

Fly often enough and you will inevitably encounter turbulence. But with forecasting improvements, pilots can avoid the worst of the weather. Newer aircraft such as the B787 are very good at reducing turbulence. The aircraft has a gust-suppression system, which recognises changes in wind speed and direction, and counteracts them quickly to give a smoother ride.

#### HIGHER PRESSURE

The aircraft consists of a composite fuselage made of plastics wrapped with carbon fibre,

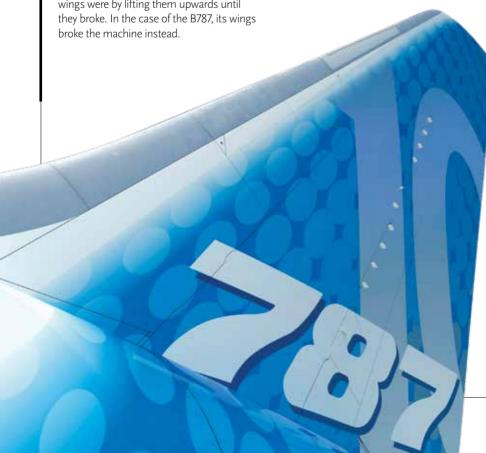
which makes it stronger and lighter than aluminium, and also not prone to the metal fatigue resulting from flexing. This allows cabin pressure to be maintained at a higher level than with previous aircraft – pressure equivalent to 1,800 metres altitude, instead of the more usual 2,400 metres, creating a more comfortable experience for passengers and crew. Boeing claims that just five per cent of passengers on the new aircraft experience discomfort during cabin pressure change, compared with 25 per cent in conventional aircraft on flights of 12 hours or more.

#### LARGER WINDOWS

Dreamliner windows are 30 per cent larger than those on most commercial aircraft, with dimensions of 27.2cm x 47.6cm. It means more customers can maintain eye level with the horizon, which helps prevent motion sickness. On a daylight flight there's more natural light, so your body can cope better with travelling through time zones. In place of the plastic window blinds - often a touchpaper for an argument between the person who raised them to read and those passengers trying to enjoy a snooze - the B787 windows are made from electrochromic glass, which has five stages of tint, ranging from completely dark to fully transparent. While passengers can adjust the level of tint with electronic dimmers, it can also be controlled by the flight attendants.

#### **GREATER HUMIDITY**

Conventional aircraft have dry cabin air to reduce condensation (and corrosion) on the aluminium fuselage parts. The downside of this is dry eyes and nasal passages. But with no



300ER or an A380, so no complaints there). Much the same principle applies to Emirates, which relies principally on A380s and B777-300ERs to ferry people to and from its Dubai hub.

It will come as no surprise that, for the airlines, the reason for buying these aircraft is because they are economical to run, not because we like large windows on a plane. The beauty of the B787 is its ability to fly long distances, cheaply. And it can even can carry a decent amount of freight in the hold, helping to provide extra revenue for the route. The result is that airlines make more money on routes for which the aircraft has the appropriate number of seats, and also have more free-

dom to experiment with routes that previously weren't commercially viable.

## **HUB-BUSTER**

Boeing positioned the aircraft as a "hubbuster", or more prosaically, as a catalyst for "network fragmentation", meaning that the B787 enables airlines to fly between new city pairs economically. Air India's chairman and managing director, Rajiv Bansal, is clear that it has enabled the airline "to open numerous new and non-stop routes". For British Airways a notable success has been London to Austin, while for an airline like United it was San Francisco to Chengdu (BA had a B787 on its Chengdu route, but this was dropped in 2017). Qantas intends

to fly one of its new B787-9 aircraft nonstop between London and Perth in 2018.

Ironically, although the B787 has certainly served this purpose for BA and dozens of other airlines, it has also allowed new entrants into the market – most noticeably Norwegian – to offer competition across the Atlantic at prices that previously would not have been possible. Meanwhile, a carrier such as Cathay, which opted for the A350 XWB, has been using its Airbus planes on new routes like Dusseldorf (since dropped), restarting its Hong Kong to London Gatwick flights, and, next year, using it on new routes such as Dublin and Brussels.

There are currently two Dreamliner variants – the B787-8, and the larger B787-9. A



aluminium fuselage, the humidity can safely be increased in a B787. When the effect of this is combined with the feeling of space and comfort provided by the larger windows and open architecture, it can help reduce jet lag.

## **COLOURED LIGHTING**

Often referred to as "mood lighting", the B787 has potentially hundreds of combinations. But, in practice, it has pre-determined settings: for take-off, landing, day boardings, evening service and sleep, including different settings for different cabins.

### **LESS NOISE**

The B787 is significantly quieter than predecessors, making it easier to relax and sleep

onboard. The aircraft also has a quieter noise "footprint" on the ground below.

## THE DREAMLINER STORY

The first whispers of what would become the B787 began in early 2003 when Boeing gave the go-ahead for a "new super-efficient, midsized airplane": then christened the Boeing 7E7 (the "E" stood for "efficiency, economics, environmental performance, exceptional comfort and convenience, and e-enabled systems"). The moniker didn't catch on though, so B787 it was.

The intention was to formally offer the plane to airline clients in 2004, and start delivering in 2008. It took three years longer than that, but the first test flight took place from Paine

Field in Everett, in Washington State, on December 15, 2009, and concluded with touchdown at Boeing Field in nearby Seattle. The first delivery to an airline was to ANA in September 2011. The larger B787-9 was delivered to launch customer Air New Zealand in June 2014, while the larger-still B787-10 will go to launch customer Singapore Airlines in 2018.

One of the original B787-8 Dreamliner flight test planes was donated to the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Known as ZA003, it was the third B787-8 produced, and circumnavigated the world several times in 2011 and 2012 during a "Dream Tour" that introduced the B787 to more than 68,000 visitors in 23 countries.



## Dreamliner B787

## **IN NUMBERS**

- 50% composites Half of the "primary structure" including the fuselage and wings, is made of composite materials: usually plastics, often reinforced with carbon fibre
- 20% savings The improvement in fuel economy on the B787 compared to older planes
- Mach 0.85 Typical cruising speed on the B787
- **210-242** Passenger capacity of the B787-8 Dreamliner
- 250-290 Passenger capacity of the B787-9 Dreamliner
- **300-330** Passenger capacity of the B787-10 Dreamliner
- 15,400 km Range of the B787-9 Dreamliner
- 11,910 km Range of the biggest B787-10 Dreamliner

new one – the B787-10 – is coming in 2018 (the launch customer will be Singapore Airlines).

#### IN LOT'S FLEET

LOT Polish Airlines has eight Dreamliners in its fleet, operating long-distance services to New York (JFK), Newark, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing. In 2017, LOT received two B787-8, the last ones delivered under a contract signed back in 2005. Each of them has 252 seats in three classes: 18 in Business Class, 21 in Premium Economy and 213 in Economy. The two new Dreamliners delivered last year, enabled LOT to launch services to Newark and increase the frequency of flights to Seoul.

By 2019, the Dreamliner fleet of the Polish national carrier will be expanded to 12. This is because LOT has ordered four more B787s, three of which will be delivered this year. The delivery of the first one is planned for the end of March 2018, while the last one for the next year.

The ordered planes are slightly larger than the ones currently used by LOT. The carrier has decided to opt for the 787-9 version, which can seat up to 294 passengers. The larger version is almost 63 metres long. This means that it's 6 metres longer

than 787-8 and can accommodate 42 more passengers than its older brother. The new Dreamliners will have 24 seats in Business Class, 21 in Premium Economy and 249 in Economy.

The B787 is equipped with the next generation of Rolls-Royce Trent TEN engines, which can also be used interchangeably on the LOT's smaller version of the Dreamliner. The range of the new 787-9 for LOT Polish Airlines is over 13,350 kilometres, nearly 700 more than the 787-8.

A larger number of seats on board means lower cost per passenger. According to Boeing's data, the larger 787-9 is more economical and greener than 787-8, has lower fuel consumption per passenger and a greater range.

LOT's profitable growth strategy for 2016-20 assumes that by the end of 2020 there will be at least 16 Dreamliners in the carrier's fleet.

The new, larger B787-9s will first serve the routes to the US, while B787-8s, which are now used on transatlantic routes, will serve new routes, e.g. from Warsaw to Singapore and from Budapest to New York and Chicago (those services will commence from May 2018).





LOT Polish Airlines has eight Dreamliners in its fleet, operating long-distance services to New York (JFK), Newark, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing.



## MERCURE KRAKOW STARE MIASTO

## A modern hotel inspired by history



The hotel, where the past meets the present, is highly valued for its excellent location, commitment to protection of the environment, as well as its unique character, reflecting the spirit of the city.

ercure Krakow Stare Miasto is a perfect example of a property that successfully combines modernity with tradition, a place where the present and history go in unison. Add to this latest technological solutions and you have a hotel like no other in the City of Poets.

## **CRACOVIAN TO ITS CORE**

This four-star property situated in the very heart of Krakow is packed with references to the history of the city. Carpets here look like old wall tapestries, while the flooring resembles the one in Wawel Castle. On entering the hotel you are welcomed by a virtual portrait of Barbara Radziwiłłówna who comes to life every few minutes to take guests on a tour of Krakow. It's worth stopping for a while in the lobby, illuminated by the glow of crown-shaped lamps. You can sit here in comfortable chairs modelled on the royal throne or enjoy the 4-metre tall 3D wall with the copies of Wawel Heads.

The hotel, where the past meets the present, is highly valued for its excellent location, commitment to protection of the environment, as well as its unique character, reflecting the one-of-a-kind spirit of the city. Designed by ABP design studio, the seven-storey, minimalist building was the first Orbis Hotel Group property to be awarded a BREEAM certificate for facilities meeting the highest ecological standards.

The rounded façade of the hotel blends perfectly with the eclectic urban neighbourhood, re-



flecting the changing cityscape of the capital of Małopolska. Located opposite the Main Railway Station and near the Old Town, the property is an ideal place for both tourists and business travellers. It was with them in mind that five spacious conference rooms were designed. Guests coming to Krakow for relaxation and leisure can enjoy the hotel fitness club, bar or Winestone restaurant serving delicious food paired perfectly with exquisite wine. It's a real treat for both wine aficionado and gourmets. The hotel is fully air-conditioned and offers free wifi.

## **ROOMS**

The flagship Mercure hotel in Poland offers 198 spacious

rooms and suites, including standard and privilege rooms, and junior and executive suites. Their interiors are an example of modern design, but simple, beige grey colour-scheme with purple accents adds a sense of pleasant cosiness. The walls are decorated with lithographs depicting Queen Bona and King Sigismund the Old, while comfy queen-size beds guarantee a good sleep. Hotel rooms at Mercure Krakow Stare Miasto reflect the atmosphere of the city; their décor is elegant and provides a sense of harmony. The hotel takes care of all its guests, offering facilities for children, animals and disabled people, as well as a large underground car park



equipped with charging stations for electric cars. .

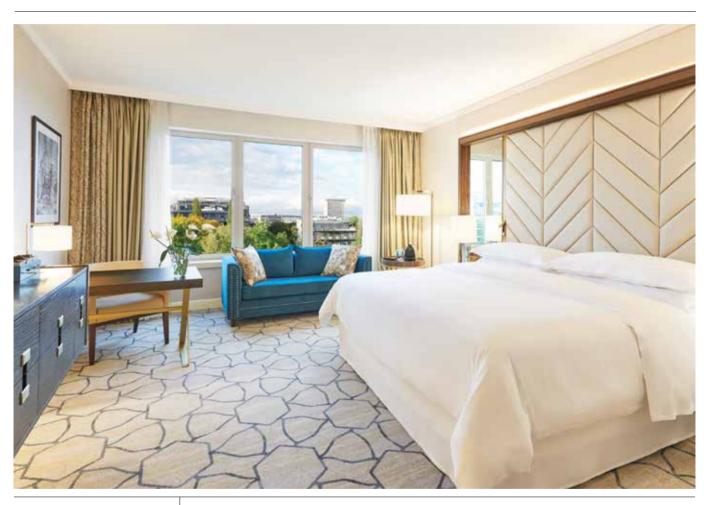
## A PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT AGAIN

Mercure Krakow Stare Miasto is a hotel you simply want to return to. The property built with the use of the latest ecological solutions, harking back to the rich history of the former capital of Poland, and located in its very centre, is a suitable choice for both business meetings and family holidays. Its unique interiors created with the use of innovative technologies, as well as closeness to local attractions, guarantee a pleasant stay.

For more info follow the hotel's profiles on Facebook and Instagram

The interiors are an example of modern design, but simple, beige grey colour-scheme with purple accents adds a sense of pleasant cosiness.





The interior design by London architect Alex Kravetz combines elegant contemporary design of rooms with tradition and excellent location at the Three Crosses Square, near Ujazdowski Park.

heraton Warsaw presents its new interiors, created by the famous Londonbased designer Alex Kravetz - a truly elegant place to stay at Three Crosses Square. The thorough revamp covered all guest rooms, including suites and Sheraton Club® Lounge, giving the property a new, fresh look. The interior design by London architect Alex Kravetz combines elegant contemporary design of rooms with tradition and excellent location at the Three Crosses Square, near Ujazdowski Park. Club rooms and suites situated on upper floors of the hotel have also been renovated. Many of them overlook the nearby Łazienki Park (Royal Baths) and the Three Crosses Square. Guests staying in Club room gain access to the newly refurbished Sheraton Club - a private space with complimentary wifi, breakfasts, drinks and snacks offered during the day, as well as evening cocktails with a large selection of alcohols and refreshments. You can spend there time with your friends, meet your colleagues after work or simply unwind in the elegant interior of the lounge.

## **WORK AND RELAXATION**

Alex Kravetz has created residential décor, which will appeal both to business travellers, high-rank diplomats and leisure tourists. The hotel suites offer a network of interconnected rooms, including living rooms, where work can be comfortably combined with relaxation. The rich social life heritage of Sheraton Warsaw is reflected in

the small details of the décor, as well as unique works of art made by a local artist. In the rooms you will find high-end architectural elements, such as multi-level, non-intrusive lighting, luxury fabrics, as well as a whole cornucopia of textures and finishes. Bespoke furniture is both creatively designed and functional to provide as much comfort as possible.

Conveniently, each room features an openable window to allow guests to take a breath of fresh. The Sheraton Signature Sleep Experience set includes the iconic custom-designed bed, which helps eliminate uncomfortable pressure points that cause tossing and turning, and improves blood circulation, ensuring a peaceful, refreshing sleep, even after a long flight, intense physical exercise or exploring the beautiful sights of Warsaw.

## **UNMATCHED QUALITY**

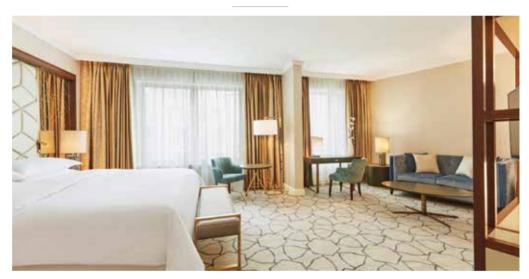
In the heart of the hotel there is a banquet space extending over two floors and reserved for special events. Since its grand opening the elegant Ballroom of the hotel has hosted numerous galas, meetings and other special events. The Ballroom continues to be one of the most desirable venues to organize events in Warsaw, and its advantages are perfectly complemented by the famous culinary offer and reliable quality of service.

Whether you want to meet at the Lobby Bar or try out a carefully selected range of Tex-Mex cuisine and interesting cocktails from around the world in SomePlace Else, Sheraton Warsaw offers a lot of possibilities. Don't forget to visit inAzia restaurant to taste fresh, authentic dishes of South East Asia in relaxed, friendly atmosphere. For even more sophisticated culinary experiences with food prepared in live kitchen, go to Poland's smallest restaurant -Chef's Table.

To find out more or to book a room, visit sheraton.pl



The hotel suites offer a network of interconnected rooms, including living rooms, where work can be comfortably combined with relaxation.







## PARADISE ON THE OCEAN

The choice of hotels in the Maldives has never been greater, say *Marzena Mróz* and *April Hutchinson*.

They also recommend best options for winter holidays in Mauritius and Seychelles.



hen the Maldives first made it onto the tourist map 45 years ago, it was all rustic huts and rough-and-ready liveaboard dive trips. Those days are long gone now. But fast forward to 2017 and you will find supervachts, ice rinks, luxurious overwater villas with butlers, expansive spas, great chefs and feats of engineering, such as the world's largest underwater restaurant.

The Maldives has diversified its activity holidays too. Pro surfers have tackled the waves around the Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa, which has its own annual surf competition and a Tropicsurf school. Tropicsurf also operates out of resorts such as Anantara Dhigu, Como Maalifushi and Gili Lankanfushi, while over at Four Seasons Private Island at Voavah, there's a motor yacht that can sail you to a number of secret surf breaks you'll most likely have to yourself.

When it opened at the end of 2016, the seven-bedroom private island of Voavah was billed as the world's first exclusive-use UNE-SCO hideaway, given its location within Baa Atoll, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve since 2011. But if all that privacy gets boring and you want to be more sociable, you can

use the hotel's motor yacht to cruise over to the nearby Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru and hang out.

## FOR NATURE LOVERS

At the Four Seasons you can put your name down for "Manta on Call", a service that contacts you wherever you are in the resort and whizzes you by speedboat to manta ray sightings. Since 2006 the resort has been the home of the Maldivian Manta Ray Project, and through its initiatives such as Manta Researcher for the Day and private manta "seafaris", you can get to know more about these incredible creatures. They especially love Hanifaru Bay, tempted here - particularly from May to November - by the huge amounts of krill and plankton. If you happen to be there around full moon, you could see as many as 100 mantas congregating.

If marine life is what fascinates you, you've clearly come to the right place. The whale shark is the world's largest fish, and plenty of these gentle giants are resident in the Maldives year-round. May to September is their most active time, and one of the best places to see them is South Ari Atoll, where you can also find the W Maldives; super-cool

Lux South Ari Atoll; and the expansive Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, which boasts Ithaa Undersea Restaurant, the world's first all-glass undersea restaurant.

## IN WITH THE NEW

With 1,200 islands dotted around 26 beautiful atolls, there's always a new resort just opened in the Maldives.

These include St Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, where the luxury starts as soon as you arrive at Malé International airport. Suite guests are collected by the resort's Bentley, luxury SUV or multi-passenger van, and taken from the airport to the seaplane terminal.

The other big headliner is Soneva Jani, where 25 villas exist in a mini archipelago of islands, one of which is home to the Maldives' first outdoor silent cinema. Most of the overwater villas have slides running down from their upper deck straight into the sea, plus retractable roofs - so with a simple flick of a switch, you could be lying beneath the stars.

Another popular newcomer is Milaidhoo Island, which opened in 2016 and offers unforgettable day trips, such as a picnic on a sandspit just for you – well, you and a couple



When the Maldives first made it onto the tourist map 45 years ago, it was all rustic huts and rough-andready liveaboard dive trips. Those days are long gone now.



But fast forward to 2017 and you will find superyachts, ice rinks, luxurious overwater villas with butlers, expansive spas, great chefs and feats of engineering.







If marine life is what fascinates you, you've clearly come to the right place. The whale shark is the world's largest fish, and plenty of these gentle giants are resident in the Maldives year-round.



of members of the team to pour you champagne and serve lunch. Milaidhoo comes from the country's original resort company, Universal, whose portfolio also includes Baros, the third hotel to open in the Maldives back in 1973.

## ON THE HORIZON

And if all those just aren't new enough for you, looking forward, the resort most likely to arrive next will be the 67-villa Lux North Malé Atoll. This offering from Mauritian hotel operator Lux Resorts and Hotels will welcome guests in the spring with Art Deco, South Beach Miami-style interiors. Each villa will also feature a rooftop terrace, giving guests a five-metre vantage point over the lagoon.

Also close to being revealed is Kudadoo Private Island by Hurawalhi, designed by architect Yuji Yamazaki, who also enjoys the distinction of creating the world's first 100 per cent solar-powered luxury resort – Club Med Finolhu Villas. Slated to open early next summer, adults-only Kudadoo Private Island will house 15 overwater villas, set five minutes away by boat from sister hotel Hurawalhi, home of 5.8 Undersea Restaurant, the world's largest all-glass undersea restaurant.

Coming soon, too, is the Baglioni Resort Maldives, due to open in spring, with 96 villas in an elegant Italian design reflective of the brand; there will also be a three-bedroom presidential water villa. Meanwhile, Accor has secured management of the former Jumeirah Dhevanafushi and will be reflagging that as a Raffles Maldives Resort later in 2018 after some refurbishment.

Further choice, under the Accor umbrella, comes from an additional Fairmont hotel. This is currently being built in front of Jumeirah Vittaveli, which launched its US\$35,000-a-night Royal Residence this year, sleeping up to 14 people on a five-bedroom private estate within the resort. Jumeirah Vittaveli is a great choice for families generally – and is probably why they will be the ones to launch the country's only ice rink this season. Yes – an ice rink, in a tropical paradise. There's never a dull moment in the Maldives.

## MAURITIUS AT IS MOST BEAUTIFUL

This exotic island, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of South Africa, is considered to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. For many Europeans and Americans it embodies the fantasy of a tropical paradise. Formerly under the rule of the French, Dutch and English, to-



Seychelles is an incredibly rich culture and tradition full of folklore and legends. It is also a real tropical paradise full of exotic charm, lush vegetation and picturesque landscapes.



## Useful

## **INFORMATION**

Tourism information visitmaldives.com

#### WHERE TO STAY

- Baglioni Resort Maldives, +39 02 3666 1966 (pre-opening), baglionihotels.com
- Baros, +960 664 2672, baros.com
- Club Med Finolhu Villas, +960 664 4040, clubmed.co.uk
- Coco Bodu Hithi Resort, +960 664 1122, cococollection.com
- Coco Privé private island resort, +960 664 8887, cocoprive.com
- Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, +960 668 0629. conradhotels3.hilton.com
- Constance Moofushi, +960 668 1010, constancehotels.com
- Dhigali, +960 658 6060, dhigali.com
- Four Seasons Resort Maldives in Kuda Huraa,+960 664 4888, **fourseasons.com**
- Fushifaru Maldives, +960 662 0202, fushifaru.com
- Grand Park Kodhipparu, +960 665 1111, parkhotelgroup.com
- Jumeirah Vittaveli, +960 664 2020, jumeirah.com
- Kanuhura, +960 662 0044, kanuhura.com
- Kudadoo Private Island by Hurawalhi,+960 662 2000, kudadoo.com (opening summer)
- Lux South Ari Atoll, +960 668 0901, luxresorts.com
- Milaidhoo Island, +960 660 0484, milaidhoo.com
- Soneva Jani, +960 656 6666, soneva.com
- St Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, +960 676 6333, stregismaldives.com
- W Maldives, +960 666 2222, wmaldives.com
- Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels, beachcomber.com

day the independent Mauritius is famous for its sandy beaches and sophisticated hotels where Tony Blair, Paul McCartney and Pierce Brosnan spend their holidays.

The fairytale-like resort of St Geran regularly hosts the singer Chris de Burgh, Prince Maurice is the favourite destination of the world's royalty, while in Royal Palm with a bit of luck you can come across J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter saga. The Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels chain is also a popular choice with Western tourists. Today, the group owns eight luxury hotels in Mauritius, providing its guests with the best choice of hospitality and quality of service. Each one is set in a unique locations, while Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury is known as the most prestigious address in the area of the Indian Ocean.

#### RELAXING IN SEYCHELLES

Seychelles is an archipelago of 92 islands in the Indian Ocean, situated close to the equator. The archipelago includes both larger volcanic islands, which form the mountainous landscape of the area, and coral islands, protruding slightly above the surface of the ocean.

The most elevated of them is the mountainous island of Mahé with the giant Morne Seychellois mountain and the picturesque capital of Victoria. Mahe beaches are famous for their vast white sand stretches surrounded by crystal clean ocean waters, rich in fabulous coral reefs. Taking a trip to one of the nearby islands - Praslin or La

Digue - is also a worthwhile option. Praslin is Seychelles' second largest island and is known for its giant, unique sea coconuts with unusual shapes.

Seychelles is an incredibly rich culture and tradition full of folklore and legends. It is also a real tropical paradise full of exotic charm, lush vegetation and picturesque landscapes. The shores are covered with coconut palms, while the interior parts of the islands are filled with lush green equatorial forests partly made up of rare tree species, such as mahogany and ebony. You can also find there the world's largest bats, tortoises and a real cornucopia of colourful birds.

Hilton Seychelles Labriz Resort & Spa located on the island of Silhouette offers spacious, fully equipped villas with private terrace. There is also a spa and an infinity pool set amongst palm trees. Each villa has luxury beds, a flat-screen TV, a DVD player and a sofa. Some of the rooms overlook the beautiful Indian Ocean. Hilton Seychelles is also known for its seven stylish restaurants and cafes. In their elegant interiors you can enjoy Italian and Japanese dishes, as well as local specialities with French accents. Lo Brizan bar is the place to go for live performances while sipping delicious tropical cocktails. Guests can also use the five star PADI Scuba diving centre to admire the surrounding island of coral reefs. The hotel is convenniently situated just a 20-minute drive from the pier, from which you can board a ferry taking you to the international airport on the island of Mahe. seychelleslabriz.hilton.com



Mauritius, situated in the Indian Ocean off the coast of South Africa, is considered to be one of the most beautiful places in the world.







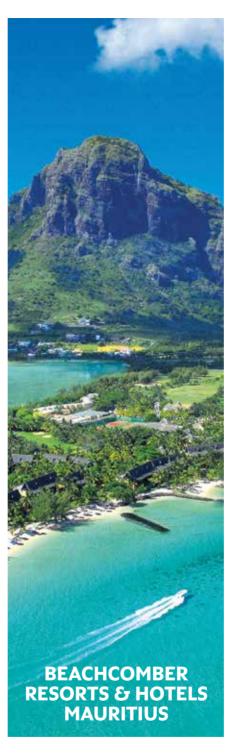
Each Beachcomber resort stands out with its unique location and distinct style. It is a world of comfort, luxury and welcoming smiles, where guests feel at home.

Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury is known as the most prestigious address in the Indian Ocean. Combining the best of traditional Mauritian hospitality with high international standards of luxury, the resort is a true exclusive hideaway.

Set on the South-Western coast of Mauritius on Le Morne Peninsula, Dinarobin Beachcomber Golf Resorts & Spa offers its guests elegant accommodation in private bungalows. With the most exquisite spa facility in Mauritius, it is the perfect place for those wishing to rejuvenate their body, mind and spirit.

As the name suggests, Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resorts & Spa with is picturesquely located 18-hole course integrated within the resort, is also a real paradise for golf aficionado.

Nestled along the most beautiful beach in Mauritius and facing the sunset over the turquoise lagoon, the legendary Trou aux Biches **Beachcomber Golf** 



BEACHCOMBER RESORTS & HOTELS IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS THE PIONEERING BRAND OF THE MAURITIAN HOTEL INDUSTRY, WITH ITS FIRST HOTEL CONSTRUCTED ON THE ISLAND AS EARLY AS IN 1952. TODAY, THE GROUP OWNS EIGHT LUXURY HOTELS IN MAURITIUS, PROVIDING ITS GUESTS WITH THE BEST CHOICE OF HOSPITALITY AND QUALITY OF SERVICE.







**Resort & Spa** is the epitome of tropical romance and art de vivre.

- Set on a peaceful and unspoilt South-Eastern coast of Mauritius and surrounded by a marine park Shandrani **Beachcomber Resort & Spa** is the place to go for lovers of action-packed holidays. The resort has three spacious beaches.
- Ideally located between the capital Port Louis and the coastal village of Grand Bay, Victoria Beachcomber Resorts & Spa is a superior 4-star hotel with comfortable rooms facing the picturesque ocean. It is also the ideal place for families, while the "Victoria for 2" wing is dedicated for couples and adults only.
- Set on the historic peninsula edged by a string of small secluded creeks on the sunny north-western coast of Mauritius, is the thoroughly renovated Canonnier Beachcomber Resort & Spa with fantastic views over the northern islands.
- If you are travelling with your friends, then Mauricia **Beachcomber Resort & Spa**, renowned for its hospitality and cosiness, may be the right choice for you.

## MEN'S ARC'TERYX RUSH JACKET

This Gore-Tex jacket has a tailored and flattering shape with broad shoulders and a slimmer waist.

Price: PLN 2,800; arcteryx.com



## **DANNER MOUNTAIN 600 BOOT**

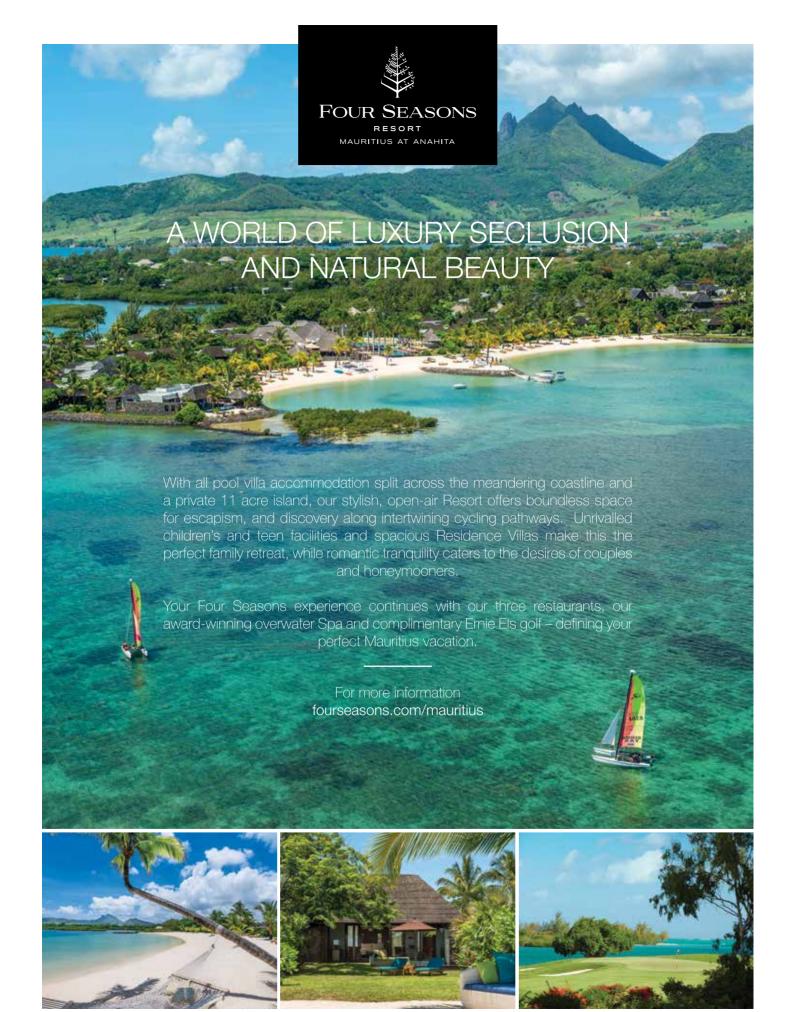
The perfect choice for evening après-ski. It would be a shame to survive skiing only to fall over in the evening. This has a combination of a Vibram midsole and Fuga outsole, giving great grip while providing good ankle support.

Price: PLN 700; danner.com



snowboard-asylum.com







## DAWN BREAKS

At around seven in the morning, while the Swiss resort of Verbier is still in darkness and the surrounding mountains indistinguishable from the night-time sky, the patrouille (ski patrollers) begin their day's work.



vernight, in preparation, as skiers fill the après-ski bars then move on to restaurants and nightclubs, the lights of the snow cats can be seen grooming the slopes ready for the next day. That job completed, now it is time to make those same pistes safe before the day's skiing can begin.

To see what is involved, I met up with a member of the patrouille - Victoria Jamieson. One of 28 people patrolling the Verbier Four Vallées area (and one of only two women), her working day starts at 7am and ends at nearly 6pm. In between, it involves everything from making sure the pistes are safe by checking they are correctly marked and coming to the aid of injured skiers to, depending on snow conditions, setting off controlled avalanches with bombs. To get up there, we took the Médran gondola from

Verbier (1,200 metres) up to Les Ruinettes (2,200 metres), and as the tops of the mountains became clearer against the lightening sky, stopped for a minute to watch a faint pink edge the horizon as this beautiful part of the world awoke.

From one point of view, the patrouille are the security team ensuring the safety of the resort before it opens, except here there are no intruders to worry about - only nature.

As well as 410km of pistes, Verbier has 11 "itineraries", which are marked but ungroomed, and endless off-piste opportunities.





As well as 410km of pistes, Verbier has 11 "itineraries", which are marked but ungroomed, and endless off-piste opportuni-

Verbier has to strike a balance between being a resort where skiers can challenge themselves, but also one where safety is paramount. To that end, a recent innovation has been the International Snow Training Academy (ISTA). For skiers who do not intend to leave the piste, there is also the assurance that no avalanches will occur, and if they do fall and hurt themselves, help will be swift in coming. For both of these tasks, the resort relies on its patrouille.

## A FALSE-BEGINNER

Returning to skiing after a decade, I was more concerned about staying safe and enjoying myself without injury than with testing my limits. I had spent the previous day with a ski instructor from the European Snowsports ski school. He took me across the whole of the Verbier ski area as I progressed from a nervous snowplough down an easy red run, to remembering how to do carving turns and, then, finally, heading for black slopes. It's possible that many people have had a bad experience in the types of group lessons that were common 20 or 30 years ago and either been put off skiing (or put off lessons), but teaching techniques have changed among the ski schools that have blossomed across the Alps in the intervening period. On that first day back as a returning intermediate skier, I skied dozens of kilometres of red runs, had lunch at the sun trap of La Chaux (2,260 metres) at Le Dahu restaurant, and took the cable car up for the stunning views from Mont Fort (3,330 metres), from where confident skiers can take a black run down - and the rest of us can simply take the cable car.

## SWITZERLAND NATURALLY

Switzerland in general, and Verbier in particular, is an expensive place to ski. Yes, there are ways of reducing the cost - staying in Le Chable further down the valley for instance, or travelling at an off-peak time. January, if possible, is best, as the school holidays have ended, the price of ski passes drops, the snow is good and you will have quiet slopes and mountain restaurants, and less expensive accommodation. But whatever you do, you will be paying a lot of money, so it's gratifying

that the money is reflected in the experience, both on- and off-piste, in the town. Perhaps you would expect free sets of tools at the tops of lifts to help complete minor



repairs to ski equipment, or slopes regularly blasted by snow cannons, or poles straightened on an almost hourly basis, or lifts replaced to speed them and make them more comfortable, but in Verbier (and many ski resorts across Switzerland) there is a recognition of the importance of preserving the natural environment, not least since the tourist authorities want to attract visitors in the summer, when the snow has disappeared and the resort and its mountains need to look as unspoilt as possible. To that end pistes are not blasted out during the summer to make them uniformly blue or red in difficulty, and even the avalanche bombs are in bags made of a biodegradable tissue paper.

Still, there's no doubt that the prices reflect the visitors and a visit to the Vinabagnes shop in the centre of town (www. vinabagnes.com) leaves little doubt about the budget that some can afford, with its extensive range of Swiss wines along with

French, Italian and Portuguese wines and a lot of magnums of extremely good wines for entertaining in chalets. It was only the early start which prevented me from buying a bottle for later enjoyment.

## FIRST THING IN THE MORNING

Back up on the slopes as sunlight lightens the skies, we ski down the virgin pistes with Victoria. It's hard to know which is more enjoyable: skiing slopes completely free of others, as though this was all for ourselves, or clocking the looks of those passing overhead in the cable cars, them wondering who we are that we managed to get up here so early. For the patrouille, though, this is just the beginning - hours of vigilance and ensuring the safety of skiers lie ahead. Verbier's website promises that "pure energy lives here". It's something to live up to, but only after a leisurely breakfast on the mountain.





## Useful info

## **RESTAURANTS AND BARS**

• Fer a Cheval The "Horseshoe" is open all day and very popular for après-ski on the bustling Rue de Médran – great music and food.

Rue de Médran 16, +41 27 771 26 69 feracheval.ch

• Restaurant Le Caveau The place to head for a traditional raclette or fondue. Place Centrale. +41 27 771 22 26

theplacetobe.ch/restaurant-le-caveau

 Bottle Brothers Verbier Underneath the Hôtel Nevai, this is a modern sister restaurant to the one in Geneva - sleek and stylish, with smaller visually led portions and an extensive cocktail list

Route de Verbier Station 55, +41 27 775 40 00 bottlebrothers.ch

• Le MilLEnium Underneath the Hotel La Rotonde, this serves stylish food in large portions, attractively plated with excellent

Route de Médran . +41 27 771 99 00 lemillenium.ch

• Le Dahu The best pizzas on the mountain, as well as a wide choice of pasta dishes and salads.

La Chaux, 41 27 778 20 00

ledahu.ch

• Chalet Carlsberg This Italian restaurant sits right next to the Attelas ski slope. It has stunning views down to Verbier and across the mountains. There are lovely sheepskincovered chairs as well as an outdoor terrace with a self-service snack bar. It shuts at 4.30pm though.

Chalet Carlsberg, 1936 Bagnes, +41 27 775 26 73 verbier.ch/en/fppoi-chalet-carlsberg-200.html



## FEASTING IN THE DOLOMITES

The finest wines from the best vineyards of South Tyrol and the wide sunny slopes of Alta Badia situated at the foot of the biggest ski circuit in the Alps.

25 March is the perfect date for a short but unforgettable event to be marked in the calendar of an active business traveller.

any ski aficionado think (and rightly so) that March is the best month for a real ski holiday. This is because at that time school breaks in most European countries have already finished, so slopes are uncrowded, longer days put you in good mood, and the spring-like atmosphere promotes relaxation. Add to this the best wine in the region and the local South Tyrolean cuisine - and you have a recipe for a short yet intense getaway.

## AT THE FOOT OF SELLA RONDA

Alta Badia is basically a part of Europe's most famous ski circuit called Sella Ronda. Stretching around the vast Piz Boe massif, it is located in most part in the Italian Alto Adige/ Südtirol autonomous region. To the north it borders the famous Kronplatz, to the south the Marmolada massif. and Val Gardena (Gröden) to the west.

Though naturally connected by lifts to Sella massif, Badia is a slightly different ski region. It's situated slightly lower (the highest sections reach 2,200 m) and is a little bit wider. Slopes are surprisingly spacious, while almost half of all the runs are blue, making the spring skiing especially pleasurable.

Badia itself offers as many as 130 km of runs, including 50 km of blue runs of varied difficulty. You can use here 10 gondolas, more than 30 chair lifts and a dozen of t-bar lifts. For the most advanced skiers there are 12 km. of well-groomed black runs. If, however, you decide that those 130 km of varied runs is still not enough, you can always hop on a chair or a gondola of Sella Ronda or onto the ski loop of the most distinctive Alpine glacier of Marmolada.

Badia is also a very popular destination with various celebrities. It's often visited by Tom Cruise, as well as numerous American pop stars, including Rihanna. The laid back character of the tranquil villages, such as La Villa or Badia, guarantees intimate atmosphere. As do the unique South Tyrolean wines.

## THE WINE HAVEN OF DE DL VIN

The biggest and most unique event on the European après-ski scene is Wine Ski Safari, which takes place every year. March is the most perfect time



Every March, sunny terraces are filled with tables and numerous booths of local wine manufacturers. Dé dl vin is prepared with utmost attention to every detail.





for wine tasting on the slopes, as at that time high in the Alps you can feel spring in full swing, days are longer, and the warm sunrays put you in a laid-back state of mind. In this fabulous scenery, every year four Alpine huts - Pralongiá, Bich, I Tablá and Piz Arlara - become venues for tasting wine from the best South Tyrolean wine valleys, as well as such as iconic varieties as white gewürtztraminer or red lagrain.

Every March, sunny terraces outside the huts are filled with hundreds of guests and numerous booths of local wine manufacturers. Dé dl vin, as the feast is called in the Ladin dialect. is prepared with utmost attention to every detail. Each wine has its own precise, printed description, you also get a special 'tester's booklet' to take notes while enjoying various varieties of wine. All this accompanied by local appetizers and traditional Alpine live music. One of the most valuable aspects of the feast is the opportunity to talk to vineyard owners, who are happy to come to Dé dl vin and share their knowledge with wine lovers.

"In addition to unquestionable hits made in Alto Adige, sich as white gewürztraminer and pinot bianco, or red schiava, lagreina and pinot nero, there is a new star: fresh, aromatic and original white wine from kerner variety. Southern Tyrol wine makers claim that it's their response to the pinot grigio. Indeed, kerners are already conquering wine bars in Bolzano, Merano, but also in Verona and Milan. The best wines of this variety are made in the Isarco Valley, the northernmost part of the South Tyrol," explains Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, the editorin-chief of "Wino" magazine and a regular attendee of Dé dl vin, with whom we visited this unique festival.

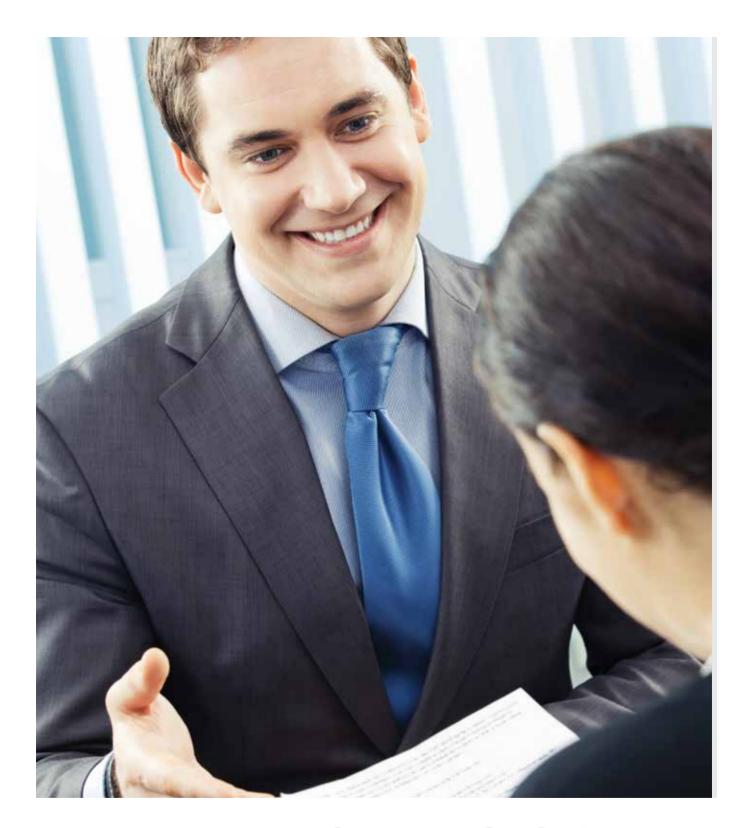
This year Wine Safari will take place on March 25th in the Alpine huts mentioned above. The entrance ticket to each of them is €30. You can taste as much as you like, though the organizers warn all the attendees to 'ski carefully'.

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

How to get there

- from Munich airport 4 hours
- from Bergamo airport 3.5 hours
- by car from Poland via Brenner 15 hours altabadia.org

Filip Gawryś



## FIND YOUR VOICE

Interviews and public speaking require confidence – but there are some tricks to make yourself heard

hen preparing for an important job interview, have you been told to "just be yourself"? Or when feeling nervous about speaking in front of strangers, tried that trick of imagining everyone in the room naked? You're right - they're useless bits of advice. Like it or not, you now have to be masters of self-branding and self-promotion. If you can't sell yourself and your ideas, there's a good chance your career will not advance in the way you'd like it to.

There are many courses and workshops that help you become a better communicator in the business world. Top courses include leadership training from Impellus (impellus. com), and management skills for emerging leaders at Harvard (extension.harvard.edu). There are also some great books, such as Talk Like TED: The 9 Public Speaking Secrets of the World's Top Minds by Carmine Gallo and the classic The Quick and Easy Way to Effective Speaking by Dale Carnegie. The skills needed for presentation are not dissimilar to those for job interviews.

## TALK THE TALK

When it comes to getting a "yes" at your next critical meeting - be it a job interview, raising finance or getting a counterparty to agree to a merger - there is one particular training programme, Rehearse It (rehearseit.co.uk), that claims a success rate of more than 90 per cent. It offers one-day workshops, pitching rehearsal sessions and one-on-one coaching from founder Robin Roberts and his team of actors, and film and theatre directors.

"An interview is analogous to an audition. It's key that individuals learn how to take control of the situation in order to deliver their best possible performance," says Roberts.

Since launching two years ago, the organisation has worked with more than 120 people, many of them extremely high-powered

- from European Union commissioners to senior judges and chief executives. Why do they need help? "By nature they are perfectionists and are going for something they don't want to risk not getting," says Roberts. The curriculum covers psychology, body language and role play.

Roberts founded Rehearse It after retiring from a long career at global headhunting firm Egon Zehnder. He says: "While there, I noticed that even the world's most senior people mess up their meetings and interviews - including people who were candidates to be chairmen of FTSE 100 companies. It made me wonder why we can screw up critical meetings."

How does it work? "Rehearse It is a combination of behavioural science and performing arts, which we guarantee will improve your performance dramatically," he says. "It's not a drama class, though. We are not training people in our workshops to be Daniel Craig or Cate Blanchett. We are saying, look, in this critical moment when you are in front of an audience, doing these things will nudge opinion in your favour."

How quickly do you think strangers form an opinion about you? In a minute? A few seconds? Roberts says: "The most common mistake is not to realise how quickly the judgement is formed. It's actually milliseconds. Our brains have evolved to collect data about other people really fast." This means that not only do first impressions count, but you have far less time to present yourself than you thought.

At what point does the interviewer typically make a decision about whether you are right for the job or not? Roberts says: "There is research that shows that all the information they will base their decision on is gathered in the first 15 minutes. Most interviewers believe they are using the entire hour to keep an open mind, but the research



## 10 top

## **INTERVIEW CHEATS**

Master the handshake Make sure you • don't give a soft, flimsy handshake – whatever your gender, make sure you give a good firm grip and look the person in the eye. Remember – it is not about asserting dominance, but sincerity. Don't pump the arm – you're not Donald Trump.

Confirmation bias Research shows that an interviewer's questions are easier if you create a good impression immediately. Once you have set up an unconscious "confirmation bias" within the mind of the evaluator – they already like you, and want you to do well - you can nudge the ultimate decision in your favour.

**3.** Summarise your experience On average, hirers spend no more than six seconds reviewing your CV before choosing candidates to interview. They know almost nothing about you when you walk in, so gently ask if they would like you to summarise your experience.

Hold your bag to the side Looping your 4-bag over your shoulder or forearm looks too informal, while holding it in front of you suggests you are nervous or scared. Always hold it to the side, whether you are a man or a woman.

**5.** outfit for the company – if it's a tech firm, **Dress with respect** Select an appropriate wearing a three-piece suit would probably be a big no-no. Equally, turning up to an investment bank in jeans and a blazer will not give the right impression. Wear something a little more pressed and polished than the typical employee.

Don't hesitate to shine Interviewers make 6. their initial judgement about you in half a second, and then decide whether or not to give





you the job in less than 15 minutes. Agree with the interviewer during initial small talk to demonstrate you share the same world view, and make sure you are engaged and ready to deliver during early questions.

Mirror body language As soon as you meet your interviewer, subtly copy the way they stand or sit, crossing your legs or resting your arm on the back of the chair if they do. In a "natural" setting with friends, most people do this without thinking, but in an interview you can behave more awkwardly. Don't follow behind them down the corridor – walk next to them

O Use your hands and thumbs Always keep •your hands in view and rest them on the table. Use them to add emphasis when you talk and make sure your interviewer can see you thumbs, which shows you are at ease.

**9. Ask questions** Prepare three questions to ask at the end based on your research of the company, but be careful not to appear critical or doubtful. Never ask about benefits or salary - wait until you are offered the job.

.End well Make it seem like you really enjoyed the conversation and don't want the interview to end. Avoid looking like you want to get out as soon as possible. Maintain eye contact, smile and talk as you gather your belongings.

indicates that is not the case. The problem is, almost everyone sleepwalks into the room, warms up as the meeting goes on, and by the half-hour mark all cylinders are firing, but by that point it's too late. You need to come out of the gates like a racehorse."

## FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT

We all know we need to practise our presentations, but if you think rehearsal involves no more than mumbling it in the shower, think again. As Jon Dean, managing director of Impellus, says: "Fail to prepare – prepare to fail."

Speeches come under even greater scrutiny. Nigel Oseland, PR manager for Toastmasters International (toastmasters.org), a membership organisation for people who want to practise speaking in public, feels strongly about the way you shouldn't deliver a speech. "I am a little more forgiving of people who are speaking in English when it is not their first language, but otherwise, if someone is reading from a script, I walk out. I find it offensive because I know I can read quicker than they can read to me."

Instead, he says: "It is better to write your speech, get the wording right, distil it down to some key points and then talk around them. Think about the structure and the content that will appeal to your audience. It's not about what you say but what they remember that counts. The trick is moving from a monotone delivery to a speech that inspires people. Humour helps you come across as human and lets the audience engage with you."

Another good way to enhance your public speaking prowess is to attend a training course at RADA in Business (radainbusiness.com), a social enterprise aligned with the London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, with expert tuition from voice coaches, actors and influence specialists. Charlie Walker-Wise, client director for RADA in Business, says: "We teach people to use their physicality, breath and voice to project themselves into any given environment. These communication skills are not just acting skills - they are human skills."

During the course, participants learn why your voice is, as Walker-Wise says, your "greatest tool of influence".

Sound is movement, he explains, and just in the way you need to practise kicking a ball into a net, you need to rehearse your presentations out loud. "I'm a trained actor, but the only way to make it look easy is to practise," he says.

Walker-Wise also says that when we are nervous, we forget to breathe. "We don't want to mess up. We tend to retreat and play it safe, but then often think: who was that?" RADA in Business courses are designed to free us up to be the "best version of ourselves". So when you walk into that job interview, you really can "just be yourself".





## HOURS IN... **ASTANA**

**Tom Otley** hops around the Swedish capital, taking in Baroque palaces and a well-preserved shipwreck.



Bayterek tower's slender trunk is topped by a huge ball. This symbolises the golden egg of the mythical phoenix-like Samruk bird.

urrounded by an endless steppe, the city of wind and sophisticated architecture resembles a camp of aliens, who have decided to settle in this corner of the Earth.

Architecture-wise Astana was designed as a melting pot of various cultures. No wonder then, that you will see here buildings reminiscent of American high-rises, Moscow office buildings, constructions characteristic of Dubai, Abu Dhabi or Singapore; with a bit of luck you can find here a typical Chinese pagoda. Meanwhile modern housing estates are built in Spanish and British style.

## KHAN SHATYR

Begin your exploration at the north-western end of the two-kilometre-long zone of buildings that houses the Kazakhstani government and major business institutions. In a young city filled with impressive architectural edifices, the Khan Shatyr is perhaps the most striking. A tent-shaped cone 150 metres tall, this enormous shopping and recreation centre was designed by Norman Foster's architectural firm, Foster and Partners, and uses a transparent plastic compound that absorbs the sunlight and protects from the steppe winds, keeping the interior temperate throughout freezing winters and boiling summers. Three floors of designer shops, cafés and food outlets follow a mall pattern, but on the uppermost floor is a leisure park where you can lounge under palm trees on a sand beach beside a lagoon pool.

Open 10am-11pm. khanshatyr.com/en

## **BAYTEREK TOWER**

From Khan Shatyr, walk towards and through the arch of the Kazmunaigaz building and, after

about ten minutes, you'll see the 97-metretall structure of the Bayterek tower, its slender, white trunk topped by a huge metallicsheened ball. This symbolises the golden egg of the mythical phoenix-like Samruk bird, laid at the top of the Tree of Life, which was

impossible for humans to reach. An elevator whisks visitors up into the sphere, through whose gold-tinted glass a 360-degree panorama of the city can be viewed. Look south-east and you'll see the marbled splendour of the blue-domed Presidential Palace. On the very top level of the orb is a handprint belonging to President Nazarbayev, in which visitors can place their own palms.

Open 10am-9pm October-March; entrance 700 tenge (£1.60). astana-bayterek.kz

## PALACE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Behind the Presidential Palace but on the far side of the Esil River is the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation. Just a five-minute taxi ride from the Bayterek tower, this attractive glass pyramid is another Foster and Partners creation, built on top of a small green hill to be a meeting place for the leading representatives of the world's main religions (Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Daoism and others), who gather for summits to promote inter-religious understanding and peace.

Inside the 62-metre pyramid are an ethnocultural centre, archaeological exhibitions, art galleries and a 1,300-seat concert hall. Tours are available in English, Russian and Kazakh.

57 Tauelsizdik Avenue. Open daily 10am-6pm; entrance 600 tenge (£1.40). astana-piramida.kz/en

## **CAPITAL CIRCUS**

Catch a taxi (ten minutes, approx 1,000 tenge/£2.30) back over the river to Kabanbay Batyr Avenue, between the new and old parts of the city. Constructed to look like a giant flying saucer, the Capital Circus boasts a 13-metre-diameter central performance ring surrounded by seating for 2,000, and is home to a 300-strong circus troupe – circus performances are a popular draw in this ex-Soviet nation, where Russian cultural influences are still strong. Although this building is barely more than a decade old, the traditions are informed by the old Almaty Circus. The Circus also plays host to touring international companies, from high-flying trapeze artists and horse-riding teams to acrobats, clowns, illusionists and animal acts.

5 Kabanbay Batyr Avenue. Show prices range from 1,000 to 5,000 tenge (£2.30-£11.40).

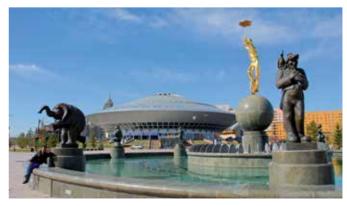
## CENTRAL PARK AND ESIL RIVER

Beginning immediately north of the small park surrounding the Circus, Astana's Central Park occupies the wedge of land created by a 90-degree bend in the Esil River. It's a popular destination for the city's residents, offering peace, shade and shelter from the dustiness of the city streets. Wandering through its many paths you'll find cafés, carnival rides, ponds, an aqua park and many nooks and crannies where people relax and picnic under the trees. Cross the pedestrian bridge close to the apex of the river bend, turn right and stroll down the bank of the Esil, past the grand statue of Kazakh hero Kenesary Khan. Facing the park on this side is restaurant Astana Nury, which serves excellent traditional Kazakh and Georgian cuisine in attractive Central Asian-style booths with curtains for privacy – or, if the weather is fine, sit out on the open terrace for great river views. Be sure to sample some Kazakh shashlik (kebab) from the extensive menu, with Georgian khachapuri (cheese bread) as an accompaniment.

3/2 Respublika Avenue. Open noon until the last guest leaves (around 3am). a-n.kz/ eng/o\_restorane









## ASK PETER

## Letters

*Piotr Kalita* is related with air transport market for almost 20 years. He is specializing in corporate and diplomatic travel segment. Have a question? - ask Piotr. Mail your question to: redakcja@businesstraveller.pl

## Changed price of the ticket

I've booked a ticket for a combined New York - Los Angeles - Dallas - Chicago - Warsaw route, some flights in Business Class, other ones in Economy. My travel agency informed me of the price for the route, giving me a three-day ticket purchase date. After three days it turned out that the price had increased by over PLN 500. The agency explains that the price isn't guaranteed and they informed me about it before. However, I remember my reservation had a confirmed price. Why do I have to pay more now?

Agnieszka

## Dear Agnieszka

As the name suggests, a travel agency acts as an agent of a given airline, executing the contract of sale of air transport on behalf of the carrier. Ticket prices (fares) are set by the airline while third parties (tax and municipal offices, immigration, customs, airports, insurance and airport security companies etc) may charge additional fees.

The very fact of making a reservation is not equivalent to signing the contract. It only ensures that you have a booked seat on the aircraft in a particular service class. However, the contract of carriage by air is concluded only when the air ticket is issued. That is why, up to that time the price isn't guaranteed and is subject to change. This can be affected by several factors. The most common one is fluctuations in exchange rates (in this case conversion from US dollars to Polish złotys). Also airport taxes and charges may vary and new ones may be introduced. Recently, some airlines have introduced additional credit card payment fee and so-called distribution fee.

It may also happen that a given fare (price level) is withdrawn from the offer without prior notice. In such a case, the higher fare becomes effective. All initial bookings are recalculated when the ticket is issued. Therefore three days is enough for the price to change, sometimes substantially.

The situation is slightly different when you buy a ticket as part of a package tour. Then you are bound by a contract with a tour operator, regulated by the Act on Tourist Services.

## Flight subscription?

What rates can I get for travels in France? A colleague from the French branch of my company said that he's using a special subscription card. I asked LOT about it, but they haven't replied. Can I get the age discount? I'm 65 years old.

Włodzimierz

Dear Włodzimierz

Air France offers its customers special Subscription Cards called 'Abonne' (prices ranging from €319 per year depending on the geographical coverage), with which they can purchase discounted tickets. Note that Abonne fares have a very high seat availability. Passengers with such a subscription card also have priority on waiting lists. This is a good solution especially for business travellers, as it's possible to book seats even at the last minute before departure and tickets are fully refundable. This is extremely helpful when changing travel plans at the last minute. The solution is particularly convenient for flights within France. If you are travelling from France to other European countries, you will only be entitled to a discount on higher Flex fares. Passengers also earn more points in the loyalty programme of the French carier.

You haven't received any info from LOT, because the Abonne fares can only be applied on Air France documents. However, the Polish national carrier also offers similar discounts. The rules are slightly different (you need to buy a specified minimum number of flight coupons) but the fare conditions are equally flexible (high availability of seats, last-minute booking, free changes).

Air France also offers special discount fares for senior citizens travelling on domestic routes. They are available for passengers aged 60 and above. The availability of seats is however quite limited. The conditions are similar to business fares - returns and changes are allowed for a nominal cost of €10-20. The price includes one piece of checked luggage and hand baggage.







































# ZAPROJEKTOWANA SPECJALNIE DLA CIEBIE Business Class



Wypróbuj perfekcyjnie zaprojektowaną przestrzeń do pracy, rozrywki i odpoczynku w Business Class Singapore Airlines. Panel, który mieści wszystko czego potrzebujesz, aby popracować, łącznie z gniazdkiem zasilającym, abyś mógł być w kontakcie oraz z licznymi schowkami, abyś wszystko miał w zasięgu ręki. Fotel o szerokości 71 cm można ustawić w kilku nowych pozycjach, tak żeby było Ci najwygodniej i który zamienia się w zupełnie płaskie łóżko, abyś mógł wygodnie wypocząć podczas snu. Każdy szczegół jest doskonale przemyślany i zaprojektowany z myślą o Tobie.

Bilety lotnicze Singapore Airlines do nabycia w biurach podróży na terenie całego kraju oraz przez stronę singaporeair.pl

