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TYING THE KNOT

How to plan the perfect wedding

AUG/SEP 2024

ISSN 2049-4203



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HONEYMOON *News*

Travel editor Melissa Cullen reveals new openings and honeymoon essentials



MYKONOS, GREECE

Namos Hotel Mykonos is a new property with 26 bedrooms and suites, as well as three private villas, complete with 24/7 personal butler service. The villas boast serene seclusion and range from four to nine bedrooms with spectacular views, alfresco dining areas and private infinity pools.

The exclusive Namos restaurant has a menu of Mediterranean cuisine with pan-Asian influences and is a must-visit.

Just steps away from the hotel lies Namos Beach, where couples can lounge in private cabanas or on plush daybeds, providing a stylish base for days in the Grecian sun. In the evening, enjoy intimate performances from some of the world's leading DJs and world-class entertainers who frequent the bay in the summer season.

More information can be found at www.namoshotels.com



KENYA, AFRICA

Angama Amboseli, an intimate safari lodge located in the heart of Kinana Sanctuary, has announced its full menu of on-site guest experiences in Kenya's first community-owned conservancy. These include a pyjama safari, where couples will witness the mesmerising awakening of Mount Kilimanjaro from its slumber as the clouds slowly reveal its beauty, and a night safari where you can see both baboons, bat-eared foxes and porcupines. If you're after something creative, there is an art gallery and painting kit available, as well as a photography and weaving studio.

Through its partnership with the Big Life Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to preserving the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, couples can engage in meaningful conservation activities that leave a lasting impact on the environment.

Head over to www.angama.com/itay/angama-amboseli to find out more information.



THAILAND

Nestled on the shores of Lamai Beach, OUTRIGGER Koh Samui Beach Resort has opened an indoor laser tag venue, perfect for family-roomers. Armed with cutting-edge technology such as infrared-emitting light guns and infrared-sensitive signalling vests, players will engage in thrilling battles that test their agility, strategy and marksmanship skills against the backdrop of the resort's glorious natural surroundings.

Complementing the excitement of laser tag are the venue's luxury amenities. From the Coral Kids' Club to the Edgewater Family Beach Club, four pristine beachfront pools, an exhilarating water slide and spacious connecting family rooms, the resort caters to every aspect of a beachfront family holiday.

Young guests can also indulge in an activities programme featuring arts and crafts sessions, dance activities and a well-equipped games room with pool tables, air hockey and movies in a state-of-the-art limited cinema room.

To find out more at www.outrigger.com



SEYCHELLES, AFRICA

Set in a coconut plantation overlooking the curvilinear shores of the Indian Ocean, Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare has undergone a two-year transformation that has added new vim and vigour to almost every part of the resort. Every room and suite has been meticulously refreshed, breathing new energy into the collection of bright and airy abodes, which open up onto emerald landscapes and azure sea views.

The new treatment menus at Kempinski Spa now feature locally sourced organic products, while the gym and fitness centre boast floodlit tennis and padel courts for after-hours tournaments.

Visit www.kempinski.com for more information.

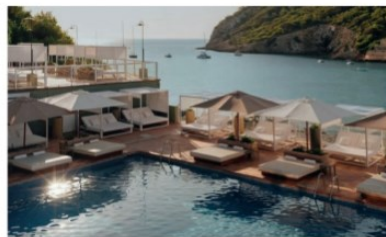
IBIZA, SPAIN

Hyde Ibiza is now welcoming guests for its first full season. The property is a 401-room hotel nestled on the lush green hills of Cala Llonga.

Offering a relaxed sea view oasis, the property occupies a prime location right next to the beach, with direct access to the crystal waters and a boat dock with a public ferry to the peaceful sister island of Formentera. There are also three glistening outdoor pools and diverse culinary experiences.

Launching this June is Sonrojo, an authentic beachside dining experience with a soundtrack of Balearic beats to accompany the beautiful coastline. Sonrojo serves a laid-back menu of Spanish cuisine, including paella and freshly grilled fish.

Check out www.hydeibiza.com for more information.



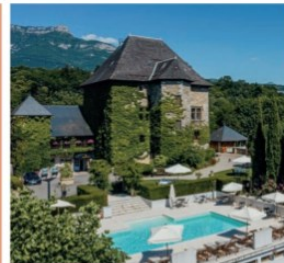
JAPAN

Walk Japan has launched a new tour exploring Kyoto Prefecture. Kyoto, Mountains to the Sea is a fully guided, eight-day tour that ventures through Kyoto's backcountry, where the pace of life is still measured by seasons and a multitude of colourful festivals take place throughout the year.

The tour follows ancient trails that weave their way through valleys and over high passes until culminating on the rugged coast at Amanohashidate, rightly considered one of Japan's three classic vistas. En route, it passes through little-known villages and aside historic temples and shrines, some grand and some very rustic.

Accommodation each night will be in Japanese inns, where friendly hosts provide warm welcomes and mouth-watering meals composed of locally sourced and grown ingredients.

For more information, visit www.walkjapan.com



FRANCE

Surrounded by six hectares of private parkland and rolling vineyards, Château de Candie is located in picturesque Chambéry, just an hour from both Geneva and Lyon airports.

The property sleeps up to 60 on a by-room basis and provides a quintessential Savoyard escape for couples. Reopening until 31st October, Château de Candie has introduced a number of new experiences for guests this summer. From a new menu at the restaurant featuring locally sourced produce and dishes typical of the region to champagne picnics on the estate's rolling vineyards, watersports at the local Bourget lake and visits to Chambéry's famous covered market.

Discover more at www.purplesummer.com

ITALY

This year, Southern Italy's iconic Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria celebrates its 190th anniversary. Founded by the Fiorentina family in 1834, the hotel has hosted celebrities from around the world and has been the backdrop of many films. Perched upon the cliff in Sorrento with views of the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius, it remains one of the most iconic hotels in Italy.

The 80 rooms and suites are furnished with fascinating antiques collected over the years. In addition to its iconic terrace and renowned Michelin-starred restaurant, the property recently opened a new champagne bar, La Pergola, which allows guests to sip champagne overlooking the main square of Sorrento and the sea.

To find out more, visit www.excelsiorvittoria.com





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