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Festive Availability Not To Be Missed

Dear Friends,

Believe it or not, fall is nearly upon us and your clients are anticipating the holiday season; that special time of year during which we all reflect and reconnect with those nearest and dearest to us. In the spirit of gathering, we've pulled together the finest festive offerings from our [Rebecca Recommends properties](#) and expert DMCs.

From six-course Christmas Eve dinner seaside in Sri Lanka, to exclusive-use stays at idyllic country estates in England, to the very best place to watch the Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City, these places and experiences put the perfect bow atop an unforgettable holiday. Here's a glimpse of what the gift of travel may mean for your discerning clients this season. Take a peek, then read on for all the details.

In England: Ice skating at Hampton Court, living like a Duke or Duchess in a private home, and shopping for everyone on your list at Harrod's.

In New York City: Taking a private holiday-lights tour and watching the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

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In Israel: Guided tours of the American colony, rooftop cocktails in Tel Aviv and standing on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

In South Africa: Taking a quiet respite away from it all at an award-winning farm resort, dining on the freshest garden-inspired meals.

In Ireland: Enjoying afternoon tea in your own private castle.

In Australia: Dining beneath the white sails of the Sydney Opera House with front-row seats on the world-famous New Year's Eve fireworks display.

In Scotland: Warming up with a dram of whisky after a day exploring Loch Torridon.

In Antigua: Giving back to local communities and lounging on the white-sand beaches.

In Sri Lanka: Surfing, safari-ing and sipping local wines as the New Year is rung in.

As always, please reach out with any questions about these holiday experiences or for an introduction.

Fondly,

Rebecca



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[Ashford Castle](#) - An Exceptional Holiday in Every Sense

Indulge in the epitome of luxury this holiday season with an enchanting three-night escape at Ashford Castle. The jewel of Ireland's hospitality crown, the hotel is the only property in the country with two prestigious Forbes Five Stars. Arrive on Christmas Eve to a warm welcome complemented by the delightful aroma of freshly baked mince pies and the comforting embrace of mulled wine.

As Christmas Day dawns, revel in a sumptuous lunch filled with all the seasonal trimmings before unwinding in the castle's private cinema with heartwarming festive films, creating cherished memories in a truly extraordinary setting. Embark on the final day of this remarkable retreat with a leisurely brunch that sets the tone for a day of thrilling activities. Choose between the art of falconry or the precision of archery, both nestled within the breathtaking grounds of the castle. As the sun sets on this unforgettable day, delight in a dining experience tailored to your desires, followed by the soothing melodies of live music. This holiday season, Ashford Castle offers an unforgettable escape filled with festive extravagance, the perfect gift for the discerning traveler seeking the pinnacle of luxury and unforgettable memories.

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[Lismore Castle](#) - A Traditional Irish Christmas in County Waterford

Rising from the banks of the Blackwater River in County Waterford, Ireland, Lismore Castle makes for a spectacular festive retreat. The sought-after, exclusive-use residence accommodating up to 27 guests is the graceful Irish home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and it is their pleasure to extend a special experience to those staying at the country estate for the winter holidays.

Lismore Castle is a place of extraordinary history. Built on the site of a 7th-century abbey, the castle has played host to Sir Walter Raleigh, Fred Astaire, Lucian Freud, and John F. Kennedy, among other notables. Despite its long history, updated appointments are found throughout the castle today, with ensuite bathrooms, a cinema room, WiFi, and much more, ensconcing guests in modern comforts.

The festive season sees crackling open fires, estate-grown trees, holiday movies in the cinema room, board games galore, Christmas choirs, and maybe even a visit from Father Christmas. Holiday guests can expect a warm Irish welcome from the family's private staff, led by Denis Nevin, who has been the castle's butler for more than 35 years. Breakfast, afternoon tea, and dinner are included in the package price and are carefully prepared by Chef Teena using ingredients grown in the kitchen garden.

Every detail at Lismore has been carefully considered and overseen by the Devonshire Family and Lord and Lady Burlington, for whom this special sanctuary remains a private home. Lismore Castle is currently available for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's 2023.

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Photo credit - Tourism Australia

[Southern Crossings](#) - Festivities Heat Up Down Under

Celebrate the reversed Southern Hemisphere seasons with a festive season Down Under. Warm days and some of the annual calendar's hottest events invite summer celebrations across the region: from Sydney's spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks to new turtle hatchlings making their way out to sea; Australian Open Tennis action in Melbourne to tranquil wilderness walks.

CHRISTMAS

With Australia and New Zealand's history and heritage often leading back to England, many local Christmas celebrations still echo British traditions: Santa Claus in shopping malls, caroling and Christmas trees ... but in celebration of summer, the emphasis is on the outdoors. The locals swap snowmen for sandcastles with Christmas at the beach, BBQs and picnics, a morning swim, or an afternoon game of beach cricket. Family lunches of roast turkey, ham, and Christmas pudding are swapped for (... or accompanied by) fresh, local seafood and pavlova.

In New Zealand, do as the locals do and escape to a beautiful beachside bach (private beach house) with family and friends. Southern Crossings has some fabulous properties to choose from.

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Boxing Day (December 26th) marks the start of summer sales in shopping centers across the region, and the colorful start of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on Sydney Harbour. In Melbourne, locals and cricket fans head to the MCG (Australia's hallowed home of cricket) to watch the annual international Boxing Day test (this year Australia takes on Pakistan).

The 25th and 26th December are public holidays in Australia and New Zealand, thus limited shops, restaurants, tours, and attractions are open on these dates. Don't forget to consult Southern Crossings' Travel Designers for suggestions on how to make the most of these days.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

A New Year's vacation Down Under can quite literally be twice the fun! With the dateline running through the Pacific, enthusiastic visitors can celebrate twice. Fiji, Auckland, and Sydney are among the first places to see in the New Year .. while neighboring Tahiti (French Polynesia) and the Cook Islands don't celebrate until almost 24 hours later.

Across the region, there are fireworks and festivals to see in the New Year, from the SkyTower Fireworks over Auckland to a lakefront display in Queenstown, from the riverside in Brisbane to the rooftops of Melbourne. Yet it is the fireworks spectacular in Sydney that really steals the show!

It is important to note that the festive season Down Under coincides with the local summer holidays (schools usually don't go back until the end of January), which creates an upbeat vibe wherever you go with a full calendar of outdoor events across the region. However, it is important to also note that this is peak travel season: houses, hotels, and tables with harbor views book up well in advance, so we advise planning early.

Southern Crossings is pleased to still be able to offer some incredible experiences over this period. They won't last long.

- Enjoy sweeping Sydney harbor views from a sky-high private villa at Crown Towers Sydney in Barangaroo. Available to international visitors for the first time, guests have a choice of two luxurious, three-bedroom villas occupying the 87th, 88th, and 89th storeys of Sydney's tallest building - complete with 24-hour butler service and all the trimmings of a resort-style hotel.
- Cruise amongst the light spectacular on Sydney harbor. Southern Crossings has access to highly coveted luxury charter vessels where guests can dine under the stars and dance on the deck, enjoying all of the New Year's Eve action, without the crowds.
- Dine beneath the iconic white sails of the Sydney Opera House enjoying "front-row" seats to the fireworks. This semi-private dining area for up to 12 guests (only available for New Year's Eve) looks across the harbor to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the focal point of the fireworks display.

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[Beyond Times Square](#) - Bright Lights, Big City for the Holidays

New York City takes on a new persona come the holidays, as nearly every building, window, and public space becomes a festive reminder that it's the most wonderful time of the year. Kicking off on the fourth Thursday of November - American Thanksgiving - the celebration continues well into the new year.

Start things off with a splash at an exclusive Thanksgiving Day Parade viewing party at Del Frisco's. Enjoy indoor (warm!) parade views, fabulous fare, and entertainment for all ages, while luxuriously tucked away from the crowds. Once the leftovers are gone, get into the holiday spirit with a Festive Delights experience, which includes a holiday-themed cruise with cocoa, cookies, and carols, followed by a private tour of the city's festive holiday markets, where treasures await everyone on your list.

Perhaps your family is a fan of the holiday classic *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*? BTSQ's exclusive private tour will take you from The Plaza to Central Park to Times Square and beyond - following in Kevin's footsteps - minus the bumbling burglars, of course. Finally, glide into enchantment with a Winter Wonderland Package as you skate at Rockefeller Plaza, bask in a private holiday-lights tour, and catch the Christmas Spectacular Featuring the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

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[Great Fosters Estate](#) - Make It a Cozy Family Christmas

Christmas at Great Fosters is all about family, friends, and Christmas traditions. Join us for a pre-Christmas stay during which Great Fosters will be beautifully decorated, cozy log fires glow, and plenty of Santa's little helpers look after you. Bundle up warmly and enjoy a crisp walk through the glorious (even in winter) 50-acre estate to work up an appetite for a delicious supper in the Estate Grill or Tudor Pass, or just to work off that extra mince pie. Indulge in Great Fosters' scrumptiously festive afternoon tea in the Drawing Room before ice skating at nearby Hampton Court, where you can glide across the ice under a star-covered sky to the backdrop of Henry VIII's historic Tudor palace. Or, visit Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and world-class garden, which will be holding its annual Christmas at Kew from November 15th, 2023 to January 7th, 2024. Discover a botanical world brimming with seasonal cheer and seek out glittering tunnels of light, dancing lakeside reflections, and trees drenched in jewel-like color, all set to music. The hotel is also minutes from Windsor Great Park, otherwise known as His Majesty the King's back garden, where another spectacular light show will be illuminating the estate from November 16th-January 2nd.

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[Hartwell House & Spa](#) - Making Magical Memories Over the Winter Holidays

As the holiday season approaches, Hartwell House & Spa is pleased to invite its valued United States guests to experience December festivities in the Vale of Aylesbury. The estate offers a quintessential country house retreat, with a rich history that dates back to the 17th century, combining timeless elegance with modern comforts.

There is still availability for a three-day house party over Christmastime in this stately home. From crackling fireplaces to traditionally decorated Christmas trees within the magnificent drawing rooms, each moment is designed to kindle the warmth of the season.

Festivities commence on Christmas Eve with a champagne reception in the evening, followed by a three-course dinner. On Christmas Day, guests savor a sensational four-course lunch with wine, then sit back and listen to the King Charles III speech in the Library. Boxing Day will begin with Hartwell Brunch and a fun, black-tie casino event in the evening.

There are also some very exciting events and offerings towards the end of 2023 and into 2024, from Halloween-themed afternoon teas to wreath-making workshops. Perhaps your clients are tempted to visit in the new year for a special winter break. Whatever the occasion, the staff looks forward to welcoming discerning guests to Hartwell House.

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[The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#) - Yuletide in Yorkshire

Retreat to the Yorkshire Dales for the holidays at the private home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, which has now been transformed into an exceptional, exclusive-use residence for families and friends seeking to celebrate together. Originally built in the 1300s as the gatehouse of the Augustinian Priory, the Hall was subsequently converted and extended as a shooting house. Throughout the centuries, it has hosted poets, painters, and pageantry. King George V, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and H.M. Queen Elizabeth II all enjoyed lengthy visits to the Bolton Abbey Estate, staying at The Hall.

Similar to its sister exclusive-use estate, Lismore Castle, The Hall at Bolton Abbey extends modern luxuries to its guests, including ensuite bathrooms, WiFi, smart TVs, and more. The 12 bedrooms can comfortably host up to 22 guests for a gathering.

All guests are attended to, just as the Duke is during his visits, by a consummate team of chefs, butlers, and gardeners. The estate team is on hand to offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences to guests, from crack-of-dawn drives with the gamekeeper on the spectacular moorland, to fly fishing with the gamekeeper and touring the Duke's private walled garden with the head gardener.

The Hall offers a truly unique experience, where every detail has been carefully curated by the Devonshire Family, for whom this special retreat remains a private home. The Hall at Bolton Abbey is currently available for Thanksgiving 2023.

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[Middlethorpe Hall & Spa](#) - Spend the Holidays in England's Most "Christmas-y" City

Renowned for its medieval streets, The Shambles, striking Minster cathedral, and a wide range of independent shops, the city of York has been described as England's most "Christmas-y city." Guests at Middlethorpe Hall & Spa have countless opportunities to immerse themselves in an atmosphere of festive decor, Christmas garlands, and glowing lights.

Built in 1699, this elegant William and Mary mansion draws visitors into the holiday spirit the moment they arrive at its great front door. Inviting firesides with glowing embers, very comfortable rooms, and views out across the gardens all provide a warm, welcoming ambience in historic surroundings. One cannot help but be tempted and delighted by imaginative dishes created by Head Chef Ashley Binder, who effortlessly and deliciously incorporates local seasonal produce into the menu.

Middlethorpe Hall is the perfect base to explore some of the celebrations York has to offer. Listen to the heavenly sounds of the choir in the magnificent York Minster. Attend family-friendly pantomime in the historic York Theatre Royal. Shop at the York Christmas market in St. Sampson's Square, lined with enchanting alpine chalets selling handcrafted items and culinary treats that make the perfect Christmas gifts. Later, warm up with a mulled wine or hot chocolate and return to the indulgent spaces of Middlethorpe Hall.

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[Egerton House Hotel](#) - Winters of Enchantment in Knightsbridge

For those who dream of celebrating the holidays in a stately townhome on a quiet Knightsbridge Street in London, The Egerton House Hotel is the answer. Slip back in time to an era of esteemed service, hospitality, and elegance - each room retains the grandeur of the neighborhood's original townhomes. The Egerton Wonderland package is a magical invitation to explore the nearby, iconic Harrods, renowned as one of the world's most legendary department stores and conveniently located just minutes from the hotel. You'll surely find a treasure for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

After a delightful day of Christmas shopping, retreat to the hotel's intimate Drawing Room and treat yourself to a festive afternoon tea in front of a warm and welcoming fire. As an extra touch of festive delight, the hotel showcases a captivating floral installation by long-term florist and partner, the talented Jane Wadham, who transforms the décor each year, ensuring a uniquely enchanting Christmas surprise that adds a touch of wonder to your stay. Upstairs, exquisite suites elevate the Egerton experience, whether top-floor Studio Suites with a luxury Savoir mattress and garden views, or the V&A Suite, a vision in rich crimson, with French doors leading to a private garden terrace.

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[The Milestone Hotel & Residences](#) - Linger Longer Over the Holidays in London

Elevate your family getaway with a stay at The Milestone's Residences, where the ambience of a private home in the city blends seamlessly with festive cheer. Each of the two- or three-bedroom Residences is adorned with its own splendid Christmas tree, creating an unforgettable backdrop for cherished moments. Located opposite Kensington Palace, each residence has direct access through the hotel, or may be accessed via a private entrance, perfect for all the comings and goings between Christmas shopping and seasonal shows in London's West End. Come with time to prepare for the holidays, and linger afterward to relish time together.

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[The Torrion](#) - Plan Now for 2024 holidays in Scotland

Christmas and Hogmanay are a magical time at The Torrion and are often booked up over a year in advance. Make plans now for your clients' holiday celebrations in 2024.

The festive magic extends through December when The Torrion's Christmas decorations light up the house and the coziness of winter is fully realized. Roaring fires, warming drinks, and stunning scenic views make the off-season one of the best times of year to coddle guests from around the world.

In winter, life slows down, allowing guests to take time to enjoy the finer things in life, both in the hotel's stunning natural surrounds and within its elegant facade, which has been welcoming winter guests for more than 135 years. Enjoy a well-deserved break from a busy year, savoring scenic winter strolls in the bracing, crystal-clear Wester-Ross biosphere air followed by whisky tastings in the intimate library. Explore new perspectives with a kayaking adventure on Loch Torrion, nestled amongst the snowcapped mountain peaks, followed by a long, hot bath in one of the house's magnificent tubs. Great escapes await in Torrion this winter.

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[Bodysgallen Hall & Spa](#) - A Warm, Welsh Welcome

Twinkling lights adorn the enormous Christmas tree outside the oak front door at Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, where guests feel a wonderful, warm, Welsh welcome throughout the festive season. Greeted by a glowing fire and inviting, plumped-up cushions on the sofas, visitors can immediately relax and feel at home in the oak-panelled 17th-century hall. The holiday spirit sweeps through this historic residence in authentic country-house style.

Afternoon tea at the fireside is a feast for the eyes: a three-plate tier of freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, a variety of finger sandwiches, delicate cakes, and pastries - with a Welsh twist! This is accompanied by freshly made tea of your choice, and perhaps a glass of fizz or mulled wine.

For those seeking respite from the frenzy of the festive season, Bodysgallen Spa offers restorative and pampering treatments with a special focus on skincare and well-being.

For enquiring minds, take an exclusive tour of the local Penderyn Whisky Distillery - Wales' first distillery in over 100 years, producing award-winning, single-malt whiskies. Coincide a visit to join the hall's evening celebration of the true pride of Wales with a carefully created Welsh menu paired with Penderyn's whiskies.

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[TRAVEX](#) - Celebrating the Holidays Where It All Began

TRAVEX invites your clients to experience this upcoming festive season in the place where it all began. Visiting Israel in December unveils a captivating side of this historic land, characterized by pleasant weather and a peaceful ambience. As the birthplace of Judaism and the cradle of Christianity, Israel boasts a treasure trove of historically meaningful locations.

Walk in the footsteps of ancient civilizations at the Western Wall, stand on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and reflect at the serene Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The country's profound spiritual essence transcends the absence of Christmas fervor, inviting travelers to immerse themselves in their roots.

More adventurous travelers can set off to the marvelous Israeli desert and explore Makhtesh Ramon, a geological wonder. And, of course, no trip is complete without floating in the wondrous Dead Sea and enjoying its nourishing properties. From the culinary journey that Israel offers - a fusion of flavors that blend Middle Eastern and Mediterranean influences - to the pleasant weather and less-crowded streets in December and January, you would be hard-pressed to find a more perfect time to explore the best of Israel.

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[The Drisco](#) - Magical Festivities in Tel Aviv-Jaffa

The festive season in Tel Aviv-Jaffa is unforgettable. Here in the cultural center of Israel, the alleys of Tel Aviv-Jaffa are decorated with lights and Christmas trees everywhere you look. Countless activities await to celebrate this special time of year. Center yourself in the middle of Tel Aviv-Jaffa at The Drisco, within walking distance of all the most worthwhile attractions and events. Whether celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, or New Year's, you'll feel the winter spirit all around The Drisco.

Consider one of these festive packages at The Drisco this winter.

[New Year's Eve \(Dec. 28, 2023-January 1, 2024\)](#): Stay for four nights in a Deluxe Room (upgraded rooms may be available), with delicious breakfasts daily, roundtrip airport transfers, a complimentary bottle of champagne upon arrival, couple's spa treatments, one dinner per couple and daily, complimentary happy hour at The Drisco Roof Top each evening.

[Special Offer - Stay 4 Nights and Get 25% OFF \(available through Mar. 3, 2024\)](#): Enjoy 25 percent off on stays of four or more nights, breakfast daily, a complimentary guided tour of the American Colony and The Drisco Hotel, a complimentary welcome drink and complimentary happy hour at The Drisco Roof Top each evening.

A variety of other packages can be found [here](#).

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[Meadowood Napa Valley](#) - Celebrating All Things Merry & Bright

Once again, Meadowood Napa Valley welcomes the holidays with an array of activities for everyone. Enjoy seasonally inspired holiday dining and cocktails at Forum, the property's central restaurant; refine hosting skills at a centerpiece or wreath workshop; and learn the art of wine pairings with experts from The Wine Center. Make memories with the whole family at the annual Holiday Bazaar, on December 17th, including a special visit from Santa, before retreating to a sumptuous guest room to decorate a gingerbread house in front of a crackling fireplace.

A special gift for oneself or others, the Best of Meadowood package offers a way to indulge in—and balance—the best of what the valley has to offer. Reserving this package includes access to a one-of-a-kind tasting hosted by the distinguished education team at The Wine Center; a day of pampering at the Meadowood Spa; individualized curation of visits to some of the most celebrated Napa Valley wineries and vineyards; a full menu of daily fitness classes and hikes on the grounds; and reservations with some of the region's most renowned restaurants. Meadowood welcomes guests this winter to revel in the simple yet rewarding pleasures that are sure to make one's holiday memories merry and bright.

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[Curtain Bluff](#) - Celebrate the Season of Giving

One of the Caribbean's most iconic luxury resorts, Curtain Bluff is an all-inclusive, five-star sanctuary offering guests the highest level of service and a true taste of life on Antigua. This year, the family-owned boutique resort welcomes new and repeat guests for the festive season to celebrate Christmas with a decorative transformation of the hotel grounds and a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas morning, just in time for breakfast.

Every Christmas, Curtain Bluff supplies more than 40 seniors with food hampers and contributes more than 100 toys in a drive for local children as part of their annual [Old Road Fund](#) Regatta, a fund set up to improve the lives of thousands of Antiguan and Barbudan people through education, healthcare, and community projects. Following the Christmas celebrations, guests can expect to enjoy festive touches on property and even an enchanting choir performance in the evening. For New Year's Eve, an exciting evening of live music and fireworks perfectly rings in the new year.

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[Resplendent Ceylon](#) - Savor the Season in Sri Lanka

Celebrate the magic of Christmas and the wonder of the New Year with our friends at the Resplendent resorts. Set against diverse backdrops, each destination offers a unique perspective to the festive season. Envision gourmet fine dining, curated stays, and seasonal treats, whether it's enjoying a glass of wine by the warming fireplace at Ceylon Tea Trails, a sit-down festive dinner beneath the starry skies at Wild Coast Tented Lodge, or decking the Christmas tree at the front lawn at Cape Weligama.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Take respite and sanctuary from seasonal stress and indulge in a six-course curated dinner on Christmas Eve, accompanied by a live band. Gather the little ones and join into the tune of carols. A host of fun activities will keep them engaged and on the edge of excitement on Christmas Day. Santa will make an early appearance, handing out gifts.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Welcome the New Year on its eve, perhaps dancing to the beat of the live band and enjoying a traditional cultural show. Experience the unique flavors of hyper-localized cocktails and a six-course menu. A display of fireworks, communal cheer, and warm hugs will ring in the arrival of 2024. Observe the ways in which our island celebrates the dawn of a new year and partake in our traditional ceremonies the next morning.

In addition to its holiday festivities, Resplendent properties are offering 10 percent off Island Escapes from November 2023 into the first quarter of 2024. Ideal for family vacations over the holiday time, these distinctive stays include a wide range of family-friendly activities and incredible value additions, from conversations with the researchers at a leopard research center, to coastal walks, to visiting historic Galle Fort. Please be in touch for more information on these vacations.

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[Ventours International](#) - Discover a Land of Festivals

For travelers seeking new cultures and destinations, Ventours can introduce them to India's many festivals, each celebrated with great enthusiasm. The co-mingling of cultures, languages, and religions amongst the country's people means a myriad of traditions and new experiences for the curious visitor.

Each fall, in October or November, Diwali - or Deepavali - is celebrated over the course of five days by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Coinciding with the Hindu New Year, the festival honors new beginnings and light over darkness. This is a welcome occasion to dress up in new clothes, adorn one's home with flowers and oil lamps, and cook savories and sweets to offer to the gods and share with relatives and friends. Each evening, large gatherings in the neighborhoods burst firecrackers, albeit eco-friendly, to spread cheer and joy.

In August, Lord Ganesha's birthday festivities are full of fanfare, particularly in Mumbai. This popular elephant-headed God is the remover of obstacles and pilgrims seek his blessings before embarking on any new ventures. After nine days of festivities and fasting, the celebration culminates with Dussehra, marking the victory of good over evil. Effigies of Ravana, the Demon King, are burnt to signify the destruction of evil. While the festival is celebrated throughout India, it is a visual delight to see the people of Bengal immersing themselves in this celebration as Goddess Durga conquers all things evil. Ventours can help craft itineraries that include local celebrations, giving your clients an intimate and authentic look at festival life in India.

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[The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa](#) - Dreamy Holidays at the Tip of Africa

Escape the winter chill in comfortable splendour at the renowned 12 Apostles Hotel, set in the embrace of Cape Town's exclusive Camps Bay neighborhood. Warmth, luxury, and a dash of holiday magic await guests. Elevate the festive spirit with a magnificent Christmas Eve dinner, a sumptuous launch into a season of cherished traditions and family moments. As the clock ushers in 2024, raise a glass at a dazzling New Year's dinner, a night of style and elegance that promises unforgettable memories. Celebrate the holidays with unmatched allure, where the sun meets sophistication.

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[Babylonstoren Farm](#) - Celebrating Bounty with a New Garden Shop, Gelato & Coffee Roastery

A new experience awaits visitors at Babylonstoren Farm in the Cape Winelands, where an enchanted Garden Shop, Gelato Room, and craft Coffee Roastery have opened. Showcasing Babylonstoren's dedication to innovation, nourishment, and local produce, these new additions complement the farm's existing features in an authentic country style.

Visit the Garden Shop, or Tuinwinkel, a sun-soaked greenhouse featuring trellised wooden walls washed in reseda green. Bespoke gardening tools, fascinating plants, and rare bonsai trees are available for purchase. For the gourmands, don't miss the retro gelateria and craft coffee roastery. The roastery sits next to the Farm Shop; a barrel drum roaster gently toasts the new Babylonstoren house blend. The new gelateria (or Roomyskas in Afrikaans) serves delectable scoops of Babylonstoren's water buffalo gelato served on wafer-thin sugar cones.

Babylonstoren Farm Hotel was recently voted Best Resort Hotel in Africa for 2023 by Travel + Leisure readers and ranks 14th on the respected magazine's list of 100 Best Hotels in the World. The accolades come from nearly 165,000 Travel + Leisure readers who cast more than 685,000 votes for more than 8,500 unique properties.

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“We’re deeply grateful to the readers and supporters who contributed to this prestigious recognition,” says Dalené Claassens, Babylonstoren director of hotel and hospitality. “Our farm hotel invites guests to reconnect and find solace while embracing life’s simple pleasures - leisurely strolls through the garden, farm-fresh meals, sleeping in, and treasured moments with loved ones. We remain committed to providing an unforgettable experience that showcases the unparalleled beauty and splendour of Africa.”

Book [now](#).