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New Year's Extravaganza at Moulin Rouge.

New For The New Year

Dear Friends,

Let this coming new year be all about the fresh, the fun, and the fabulous. We've rounded up the notable happenings from our hotel and DMC partners that will last well into the year, long after the champagne and noisemakers have been put away. Here's a taste:

- Country house-style stays in the UK and Ireland that focus on wellness, nature, and regional cuisine
- A special year in York that pays homage to the city's relationship with New York City
- A much-anticipated luxury hotel joins the scene in Edinburgh
- Vibrant New Year's Eve experiences in Sri Lanka, with decadent six-course meals, cultural performances, fireworks, and more
- Cherry blossoms by pedicab, a fun and unique way to explore Washington, DC in the springtime
- Glamping in the heart of the Thar Desert, a true bucket-list item
- A sybaritic stay in Antigua, the perfect antidote to a bit of well-deserved holiday overindulgence

We hope you'll find inspiration here for your clients traveling in 2024. With your expert guidance, they're sure to have a new year full of rich and rewarding adventures. As always, please reach out with any questions, for more information, or to be connected with our hotel and DMC partners.

Fondly,

Rebecca



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An architectural sketch of 100 Princes Street.

[100 Princes Street](#) - A Warm Welcome to a New Classic in Edinburgh

As the new year begins, there's an exciting addition to Edinburgh's hospitality landscape that promises to be a breath of fresh air for luxury travelers. Set to open its doors in spring 2024, the eagerly awaited 100 Princes Street is poised to redefine the city's hotel experience.

Nestled amidst the vibrant heartbeat of Edinburgh's Princes Street, this new gem from Red Carnation Hotels is an elegant haven of calm. Here, Scottish heritage seamlessly intertwines with deluxe creature comforts, creating an exclusive retreat within the historic former Overseas League.

Brimming with inspired design details that merge classic charm and modern opulence, serving authentic Scottish fare, and offering an "anything, anytime" level of service courtesy of a genuinely warm and helpful team, 100 Princes Street ensures that guests want for nothing. Instead, they can expect to be spoiled by a vast wine cellar, an incredible collection of whiskies, and panoramic vistas of Edinburgh Castle.

This new addition to The Red Carnation Hotel Collection embodies the brand's dedication to luxury and hospitality excellence. Keep your eyes on the horizon for the grand unveiling of 100 Princes Street - a splendid new chapter in Edinburgh's luxury hotel scene.

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Emerging from newly completed renovations that spanned 5 years, the Castle is welcoming guests once again.

[Aldourie Castle](#) - Reimagined, Restored, and Reopen for Unforgettable Loch Ness Stays

Aldourie, a 300-year-old, exclusive-use Baronial castle set on the banks of Loch Ness, has been sympathetically reimagined to create a beautiful house and one-of-a-kind exclusive stay, surrounded by 500 acres of gardens, woodland, and wildflower meadows. Part of Wildland, founded by Anne and Anders Holch Povlsen, an organization dedicated to a 200-year vision of ecological rehabilitation in the Scottish Highlands, the project has reinvigorated the property while at the same time allowing nature to heal, grow, and thrive. Wildland seeks out highly skilled and talented individuals who share their passion for the longevity of the estate, to realize their vision, collaborating with industry-leading, architects, decorators, and landscape designers on the restoration of Aldourie.

Today, the Castle boasts a bewitching silhouette characterized by multiple towers and turrets, situated between the southern shores of the famous Loch Ness and the steep sides of the Glen. Guests will admire the informal elegance throughout the 12 bedrooms and living spaces, as well as the additional cottage accommodations available on-site. The devoted team at Aldourie is delighted to announce the Castle's re-opening and pleased to welcome guests for an unforgettable experience that will leave an enduring impression.

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Relax, unwind, and enjoy this new therapeutic space at Ashford Castle.

[Ashford Castle](#) - Escape to Éalú on the Estate

Deriving from the Irish word for “escape,” Éalú, situated on the Ashford Castle Estate, is the newest space to relax, rejuvenate, and reconnect in Ireland. It’s a place for individuals, couples, and the entire family to come together and escape from the stresses of everyday life.

Upon arrival, the surrounding landscape sets the perfect tone for activity and action. The expansive waters of Lake Corrib and the rolling greens of the ancient woodlands create space for the mind and body to wander, encouraging one’s focus to turn inward.

Inside, state-of-the-art facilities create the perfect setting to inspire, motivate, and energize guests. The 15-meter pool has been designed with performance and rehabilitation in mind, complemented by a jacuzzi, steam room, and sauna. The gym, functional fitness studio, and therapy room allow guests to fine-tune their physical form, with experienced trainers on hand to help tailor sessions to their goals.

Ashford Castle paints the perfect picture for those setting new goals for the new year and for those hoping to reconnect with their inner selves in an idyllic, classic setting.

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Enjoy live music and mouth-watering meals with ingredients from its own farm at the Greenhouse Restaurant.

[Babylonstoren](#) - Bakery, Blues, Balance and Blooms

That's *amore!* Italian nights in Babylonstoren's Old Bakery have expanded and now take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings. The four-course set menu starts with antipasti and salad offerings, then homemade pasta, followed by wood-fired pizza. Meant to be enjoyed to one's heart's content, the slices just keep coming. A delicious dolce seals the deal, sending guests home with happy hearts. Book [now](#).

To relish the longer days of spring and summer, live blues music can be enjoyed at the Greenhouse Restaurant in Babylonstoren's garden each evening. The ode to birdsong and blues means it's the perfect time to try out their new and improved garden menu with a cup of tea ... or something a little stronger. Guests are seated on a first-come, first-served basis. No booking is necessary, except for groups (13-25 persons).

Experience Babylonstoren balance during a relaxing stretch and breathing session in the garden. These sessions take place every weekday from 8-9 AM and 4:30-5:30 PM. The Babylonstoren team greets guests at reception and guides them through the garden to the venue, either Clivia House or White Studio, depending on the weather.

Find summer bliss in Babylonstoren's garden, when sun-drenched days bring a burst of energy and abundance to the farm. It's a happy time, when the garden puts forward its best foot, a feast for the senses, with an explosion of colors, enticing aromas, and the taste of ripe fruits. There's laughter in the warm Cape Winelands air as little ones - gelato in hand - dodge spurts of water at the Old Bullfrog water spiral.

In the garden's stone fruit block, the fleeting flush of rosy-cheeked apricots is almost over. Early cling peach varieties like Transvalia are just starting to ripen, while Margaret's Pride will be ready for picking around Christmas. The chamomile lawn is in bloom, the delicate white petals offering their sweet fragrance in the gentle summer breeze. The first lotus flowers are peeking out after spending the winter months dormant underwater.

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The lavender in front of Babel Restaurant and in the fields at the foot of the Babylonstoren koppie are in full bloom. The blooms from the extraordinarily perfumed Lavandula “Grosso” - with its distinctive purple and grey-green coloration and unmistakable fragrance - is used to create the farm’s own essential oils, distilled and bottled in the Scented Room.

Seek refuge in the shade of Babylonstoren’s Puff Adder walkway - constructed from an army of balau slats on steel frames - on a warm December day, finding the annual bonsai exhibition on display. These miniature sculpted trees have been cultivated in South Africa for more than 85 years, and the country was one of the first outside Asia to use indigenous trees. Admire the artistry of creating these living art pieces - some over 120 years old.

Finally, look out for Babylonstoren’s 2024 workshops launching in November. There are over 100 to choose from, including everything from bread baking, ice cream churning, and fruit preserving, to composting, hen-keeping, and vegetable growing. There’s really something for everyone to come and join in on the farm fun - and a workshop would make for a truly wonderful gift. Book [here](#).

Ready to Go Right Now?

Babylonstoren is ramping up the glamor at Babel Restaurant this festive season with a new oyster trolley. Starting at the end of November, guests may sip on a glass of Babylonstoren Sprankel and shuck down fresh oysters as they watch the sunset over the farm - it’s the perfect way to ring in a celebratory evening. Babel reservations are essential. Book [here](#).

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The cherry blossoms in Washington, DC are breathtaking to behold.

[Beyond Times Square](#) - See the Stars of Springtime in Washington, DC

Each spring, in the heart of America's capital, the National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the annual arrival of those beautiful blossoms. The team at Beyond Times Square has a few tricks up their sleeve when it comes to viewing these spectacular flowering trees, including by pedicab, bike, or boat.

Relish the blooms from a comfortable seat on a simple and stylish DC Cherry Blossom Private Pedicab Tour. A knowledgeable driver-guide delivers guests to the most photogenic spots, enriching the experience with engaging narratives.

For those who love being on the water, set sail on the Potomac River on a 90-minute Private Sport Boat Adventure, with cherry blossoms gracing the banks and iconic DC landmarks coming into view. With the option for customized catering, this journey becomes an exquisite private affair.

Perhaps the evening beckons? Witness the cherry blossoms under the soft glow of DC's monuments on a DC Monuments by Night Private Bike Tour. An expert guide will meet guests at their hotel with a plan in mind to ensure the best views.

Whatever your client's preference, Beyond Times Square ensures that their cherry blossom experience in Washington, DC (March 20-April 14, 2024) is nothing short of sensational - a luxurious, private affair they'll treasure for a lifetime.

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Enjoy a comfortable moment in the library of Bodysgallen Hall. Photo credit - Historic House Hotels

[Bodysgallen Hall & Spa](#) - Get a True Taste of Wales in the New Year

With the new year upon us, a visit to North Wales should certainly be in the mind's eye. For those seeking fresh discoveries, the region is rich in history and Welsh culture waiting to be explored. Bodysgallen Hall, long established in North Wales, is renowned for its exceptional food offering. Its unique micro-climate allows it to grow much of its seasonal produce on the estate. Fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers are produced through a harmonious partnership between the head chef and head gardener, ensuring the best, organic produce is available to reflect the seasons.

The estate has partnered with local suppliers and farmers and invites locals and visitors to experience the "True Taste of Wales." A series of dinners showcase a themed menu paired with wines and spirits from North Wales, including wines from award-winning Gwinllan Vineyard and spirits from the Penderyn Whisky Distillery. The experience can further be enhanced with a visit to the Penderyn Distillery or a tasting session at Gwinllan Vineyard, both nearby in the Llandudno area.

Stay, dine, relax - these are the key ingredients for a visit to Bodysgallen Hall in the new year. In 2024, a delightful garden room will be added to the Bodysgallen Spa, where guests can relax after a spa treatment or gym workout, surrounded by nature but protected from the elements. With warm wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2024, Bodysgallen Hall welcomes your clients to the Welsh experience.

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A stunning view and gentle breezes await from a Terrace Suite.

[Curtain Bluff](#) - Introducing a New Wellness Area, Just in Time for the New Year

As one of the Caribbean's most iconic luxury resorts, Curtain Bluff offers travelers an all-inclusive five-star sanctuary with the highest level of service. With two spectacular private beaches, guests can take their pick from the bigger waves for water sports activities, or perhaps the more tranquil waters on the opposite side of the bluff to float and relax in.

The boutique hotel invites guests to relax and recenter with morning yoga on the open-air yoga deck with the gentle sounds of lapping ocean waves and swaying palms in the distance. Included in the room rate, these morning classes are taught by a resident yoga expert and offered every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

New this season, Curtain Bluff has unveiled a newly expanded, adults-only Wellness Area, complete with a standalone Yoga Pavilion, infinity pool, and jacuzzi, following a multi-million dollar renovation this summer.

Curtain Bluff 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 over 40 seniors with food hampers and contributes more than 100 toys in a toy 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. Plan ahead for Christmas 2024!

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Daytime enchantment awaits at Strasbourg Christmas Markets with mulled wine, delectable delights, and unique gifts.

[Decouvertes](#) - An Array of Parisian Experiences for the Festive Season and New Year

As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome a fresh year, Decouvertes DMC is thrilled to bring you an exciting collection of new and new-to-your-clients experiences. Visit soon or plan ahead for the festive season in 2024.



Vitrines des Grands Magasins: Wander through the dazzling streets and be mesmerized by grand store holiday displays - a shopper's paradise!



Versailles, the King's Extravaganza: Explore the grandeur of Versailles, witness the breathtaking "Spectacle du Roi," and follow royal footsteps on a Parcours du Roi tour.

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Cirque d'Hiver: Step into a world of magic, featuring astonishing performances, whimsical tales, and awe-inspiring acrobatics.



Disneyland Paris: Let the inner child roam free in a whimsical wonderland of magic.



Concert at La Sainte Chapelle: Find solace in ethereal music within the stunning Gothic architecture of La Sainte Chapelle.

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Louise Murray - Head of Product at Dream Escape enjoying a Wild Picnic Hike at Bothy Straloch.

[Dream Escape](#) - Step into the Beauty of Scotland in 2024

From the craggy peaks of the Highlands to the rolling hills of the Lowlands, Dream Escape's Client Relationship Manager, and Blue Badge Guide, Rosie Peattie, shares her [Top 10 Scottish walks](#) - a curated selection of Scotland's lesser-known hiking trails with breathtaking scenery. For any of these walks, Dream Escape will create a bespoke itinerary specially designed for guests to complete at their own leisure or with one of Dream Escape's very experienced private guides to keep them on the straight and narrow. And what better way to enjoy a hike than with a traditional Scottish bothy lunch, complete with hearty soups, sandwiches, and a wee dram of whisky? This is a magical culinary experience, and a bothy is an ideal place to rest and enjoy lunch while still experiencing the natural beauty of Scotland.

Discover the beauty of Traquair in the Tweed Valley on a Scottish borders amble, taking the Minch Moor circuit to Resolution Point and Cheese Well. Explore St. Abb's Head on a spectacular coastal headland walk to a national nature reserve and highly populated bird nesting area and a 19th-century lighthouse. Take to the hills at Ben A'an in the Trossachs, a well-loved rocky pyramid on Meall Gainmheich, or take a picturesque walk to An Aird and Shildaig, discovering the ruins of former houses, a large cairn, and a green sward where sheep graze in the Northwest Highlands.

We hope this inspires your guests to join Dream Escape on a special journey through Scotland's stunning countryside in 2024.

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Say Hi to Great Foster's new General Manager, Luke Jefferies.

[Great Fosters](#) - A Word from the New Face of Great Fosters

Great Fosters is delighted to welcome Luke Jefferies as the new General Manager at Great Fosters. Luke arrives from sister property Alexander House in West Sussex, where he was Deputy Manager. He brings with him a wealth of five-star experience from Alexander House and is well-equipped to take the beautiful historic property to the next level.

Luke says, "I'm thrilled to be joining the Great Fosters team. With recent renovations complete we're ready to build on past successes. I'm enjoying getting to know our regular guests, the team, and the hotel and very much look forward to what 2024 holds for this very special property. We plan to build on the Michelin-star accolade for The Tudor Pass, which is truly the most fabulous intimate restaurant, perfect for a special dinner to start off a vacation or to finish a trip on a high note. We will also be looking to enhance our guest experiences throughout the property to ensure that we give our guests the most memorable of stays."

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Fireworks are a delight to enjoy at Hartwell House & Spa. Photo credit - Historic House Hotels

[Hartwell House & Spa](#) - Welcome the New Year in Quintessential English Country-House Style

As New Year's Eve approaches, Hartwell House extends a warm welcome to serenity-seeking guests. Whether a returning friend to the comfort of Hartwell House or a new guest gracing the estate with their presence for the very first time, visitors find an atmosphere of warmth and elegance that befits the dawning of a new year.

Explore 90 acres of Capability Brown-inspired gardens and parkland, with winding paths that line the causeways leading to the many 18th- and 19th-century follies, including The Doric Arch, Temple of Venus, and The Gothic Tower.

Beyond the doors of Hartwell House and for fans of the Wizarding World, Buckinghamshire boasts several key Harry Potter filming locations, including the iconic Warner Bros. Studio Tour. Fans of all ages may step into the magical realm of Hogwarts.

Enhance any stay with a visit to Waddesdon Manor, an exquisite French Renaissance-style château that transports visitors to a bygone era with its opulent interiors, beautiful gardens, and impressive art collection. In 2024, this iconic estate is set to host a series of new and exciting events, so stay tuned.

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Lismore Castle Arts is one of Ireland's leading contemporary galleries.

[Lismore Castle](#) - Gardens Grow and Art Enchants in Ireland

Lismore Castle Gardens are the oldest continually cultivated gardens in Ireland, offering spectacular views of both the castle and the surrounding countryside of the Blackwater Valley. The seven acres are open to the public by day, but exclusively to guests of the castle from early evening.

Head Gardener Colm O'Driscoll presents one of Ireland's favorite horticultural TV shows, *Home Grown*, with the second series airing in spring 2024 on RTE. Colm is on hand to share the castle's meadows, orchards, kitchen gardens, and extraordinary natural specimens with Castle guests. He strives to innovate and introduce new and exciting plants while adopting sustainable methodologies, an endeavor that is clearly seen in his regular contributions to *The Irish Garden Magazine*, and through his lectures and workshops.

Located in the gardens is one of Ireland's leading contemporary galleries, Lismore Castle Arts. The gallery hosts renowned art exhibitions and an inspiring and engaging program across the main gallery and other heritage spaces in Lismore town and the wider estate. Guests can enjoy private tours and exhibition talks with Curator Paul McAree. Work on the 2024 exhibitions is well underway, with previous solo exhibitions including Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Camille Henrot, Rashid Johnson, and Wilhelm Sasnal.

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Take time for yourself and recover from the normal stresses of daily life with an indulgent spa treatment.

[Meadowood Napa Valley](#) - A Retreat for Renewal After a Season of Plenty

Start the new year right by cultivating a sense of renewal with the support of Meadowood's health and wellness guides. The Meadowood Spa's Revive and Recovery offering is the ideal antidote to a season of indulgence. This package includes a wellness consultation with a therapist, an aromatherapy steam in a private suite, a revitalizing foot and leg scrub, a 60-minute hydrating massage, a 30-minute HydraFacial, and 60 minutes of suite time supplemented with refreshments from the Meadowood Spa culinary menu to complete the experience.

Consider adding a session with Mindfulness Coach Kate Messmer Jessup, who will craft a personalized mindfulness program that incorporates simple tools designed to decrease stress and anxiety, deepen compassion and empathy, and reinforce a positive mindset. Also available to aid one in their wellness journey is the healing art of reiki, which activates natural healing processes, detoxifies the body of both physical and emotional blockages, and nurtures a state of deep relaxation and calmness.

Those dreaming of a spa retreat can slip away to Meadowood's private natural surroundings just outside downtown St. Helena to recharge, reconnect, and renew. Experience the art of gracious living found only at Meadowood with the Wine Country Retreat, which offers a \$75 daily dining credit at Forum and a one-category room upgrade at the time of booking.

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A brushing of snow accentuates the lovely Middlethorpe Hall. Photo credit - Annapurna Mellor of the National Trust

[Middlethorpe Hall & Spa](#) - “Old York” and “New York” Celebrate 100 Years

With York Racecourse a neighbor, York Minster on the skyline, stately homes nearby, and the proximity of the Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors, historic Middlethorpe Hall & Spa is the quintessential stay when visiting the City of York. What’s more, it’s the perfect home base for guests from the United States who are eager to visit when there is such a historic connection with New York City.

Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of a long-established civic partnership between the two cities. In 1924, New York City gifted a bronze plaque to the ancient City of York, which is currently housed in York Guildhall. A new ledger stone was gifted by York Minster and created by stonemason Richard Bossons, who was also the sculptor who created Her late Majesty’s statue placed on the west front of York Minster. The ledger stone is set to be shipped to the US to mark the centenary and will be unveiled at the Church of St. Thomas in New York City on May 5, 2024.

The Hall will be celebrating its 40th anniversary since opening as a Historic House Hotel, now part of the National Trust. Built in 1699, Middlethorpe Hall boasts its own rich history and offers visitors to York every comfort and pleasure, from its elegant rooms to its delightful menus served by an attentive team. Venture outdoors and wander the manicured lawns leading to a ha-ha, beyond which wild deer can be seen roaming freely. Discover a series of walled garden rooms filled with specimen plants leading down to a small lake. Middlethorpe Hall is an oasis of calm and within easy reach of “Old” York, in the “new” year.

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Cap off your day with cocktails by sunset and dinner serenaded by the sound of the ocean.

[Resplendent Ceylon](#) - Singular Stays in Sri Lanka

Celebrate the magic of the holidays and the wonder of the new year at the spectacular Resplendent resorts. Set against diverse backdrops, each destination offers a unique perspective on the festive season. At each of the resorts, guests can ring in the new year in style, dancing to the beat of a live band or attending a cultural performance. They'll sip hyper-localized cocktails and indulge in a six-course meal. Communal cheer, warm hugs, and in the case of Cape Weligama, fireworks, will ring in the arrival of 2024. It's a wonderful way for guests to observe how Sri Lanka celebrates the dawn of a new year and partake in traditional ceremonies.

[Cape Weligama](#)

A captivating clifftop retreat, Cape Weligama - a Relais & Châteaux property - sits near centuries-old temples and the 400-year-old Galle Fort, yet boasts modern comforts in its 39 private retreats. Guests may spend their days dipping into the crescent-shaped infinity swimming pool, diving, kayaking, bicycling, or slipping away to spa treatments infused with clove, nutmeg, sweet orange, and sandalwood. Dine on the day's freshest catch cooked to order and cap off the day with sunset cocktails.

[Wild Coast Tented Lodge](#)

The cocoon-style accommodations of Wild Coast Tented Lodge join Cape Weligama as the only Relais & Châteaux resorts in Sri Lanka. The gorgeous luxury tented camp overlooks the sparkling Indian Ocean, offering a singular experience in its carefully placed, cleverly styled pods. Each of the 28 four-poster, king-bedded cocoons boasts a vaulted ceiling, jungle views, colonial-meets-contemporary design, a

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handmade freestanding copper bathtub, teak floors, and canvas walls (the beach-facing pool cocoons also offer a private plunge pool). This is a place for dreams and true escape.

[Ceylon Tea Trails](#)

For tea lovers, there's no better place to welcome 2024 than in a private residence at the world's first tea resort. Five fully restored colonial-era planters' bungalows are arranged throughout the estate, offering four to six bedrooms and suites. Walking trails connect the bungalows, taking guests through scenic Ceylon tea gardens. Even the spa treatments are tea-infused - choose from cinnamon spice, green tea, or jasmine for an aromatic bath experience.

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Southern Ocean Lodge's Osprey Suite will be sure to excite guests with its amazing view.

[Southern Crossings](#) - Welcome the New Year with New Experiences

Frontload the 2024 calendar with new - and new to Australia - experiences. Southern Crossings has the skinny on these recently opened hotels and travel journeys:

Australia

For Families: Families with older children, or couples traveling together, will adore the wildlife safari-style Jabiru Retreat's two bungalows connected by a raised deck with a private pool. It's a fabulous introduction to Top End wildlife on the Bamurru Plains.

For Cruisers: Guests may set sail on the purpose-built, luxury, expedition-style *Odalisque III*, which provides access to previously inaccessible and untamed Tasmanian UNESCO World Heritage wilderness regions. Accommodating a maximum of just 12 indulged guests in six cabins with comfortable queen beds and private en-suites, *Odalisque III* is the newest member of the Luxury Lodges of Australia. Scheduled and private charter cruises combine spectacular scenery, fabulous local food and wine, and guided excursions aboard this floating luxury lodge. Seaplane transfers can connect guests with a stay at Saffire to round out the luxury Tasmanian adventure.

For Spa Lovers: The newly rebuilt and ultra-luxurious Southern Ocean Lodge has reopened on Kangaroo Island. Epitomizing Australian contemporary coastal chic, 25 luxurious suites are joined by a day spa, restaurant, bar and guest lounge, sundeck, and heated outdoor swimming pool perched spectacularly on the cliff tops above the dramatic Southern Ocean. This without-compare Australian lodge is also the gateway to a range of wildlife, nature, and culinary adventures on Kangaroo Island, including several experiences exclusive to lodge guests.

For Divers: Pelorus Private Island will provide a new luxury escape on the Great Barrier Reef. Accessible by helicopter or private yacht from Townsville, Pelorus Island is an exclusive-use residence for up to eight guests in total seclusion. Amidst 400 hectares of tropical island paradise, guests are accompanied only by an

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on-site services team that provides tailored private dining and curates personalized local touring experiences.

For Rail Enthusiasts: The Ghan, which connects Adelaide and Darwin through Australia's Red Centre outback and the tropical Top End, will offer a new level of luxury on one of Australia's great rail journeys. The new Gold Premium cabins cocoon guests in contemporary comfort, while also providing exclusive access to the new Gold Premium Lounge, all-inclusive regionally inspired Gold Dining, and distinctive off-train experiences.



Enjoy festive at Huka Lodge, one of New Zealand's iconic luxury lodges.

New Zealand

Visitors to New Zealand in 2024 can be among the first to enjoy a collection of new stunning accommodations and spectacular experiences:

For Privacy Seekers: The fabulous Flockhill Lodge homestead, a four-bedroom, exclusive-use, private villa in the South Island's spectacular Craigieburn Valley, is a full-service lodge providing tailored catering by a private chef and access to personalized local experience. The homestead will be joined later in 2024 with the addition of a main lodge (built out of sight of the homestead) with seven double suites (luxuriously accommodating up to 28 guests), a day spa, and gate-to-plate fine-dining restaurant.

For Golfers: The new Te Arai Links luxury golf resort just 90 minutes north of Auckland is now home to two fabulous - and very scenic - coastal links courses. The Coore and Crenshaw-designed South Course (opened October 2022) was joined by the Tom Doak North Course in October 2023, as well as a collection of luxury suites and Ocean Cottages. The resort will be completed in 2024 with the addition of six four-bedroom, course-side villas and a fine-dining restaurant.

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For Multigenerational Travelers: In the North Island’s Hawkes Bay wine region, a new accommodation is taking shape. From March 2024 on, Te Mania will be ideal for couples or families traveling together. The resort will offer two separate sleeping houses (each with two ensuite bedrooms and its own hot tub) built into the landscape, and a separate shared living “house” with a kitchen, lounge, and dining areas with glass walls inviting the outside in.

Looking Forward: In the year of its centenary, perhaps New Zealand’s most iconic luxury lodge, Huka Lodge, will close in May 2024, and reopen for the 2024-2025 festive season, with revitalized interiors (including the guest suites, Owner’s cottages, and shared spaces), new dining spaces, new outdoor lounging areas, and a stunning new wellness offering.

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Incredibly rich, vibrant colors delight at the Thangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery. Photo credit - Getty Images

[The Dwarika's Resort](#) - Experience a Spiritual Hike to the Thangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery

Embark on a journey to the sacred pilgrimage site perched atop a hill in Namobuddha, at the Thangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery, a place of profound religious importance in Buddhism. The monastery serves as the main attraction of Namobuddha, where legend has it that Lord Buddha, in his previous life, sacrificed his own flesh to feed a starving tigress and her cubs. This selfless act of compassion reflects Buddhism's core principles, making Namobuddha a site deeply revered by Buddhists and spiritual seekers alike. Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, Namobuddha offers a peaceful serenity for those seeking solace and a Buddhist spiritual experience.

Hikers can start in the early morning from The Dwarika's Resort, the scent of fresh mountain air and breathtaking vistas beckoning. The hills and distant mountain views create a mesmerizing backdrop for the journey to Namobuddha. Along the route, cross a village with traditional Nepali houses and livestock. Upon reaching Namobuddha, there's an option to join the daily chanting sessions with the monks or engage in interactions with them. To conclude one's spiritual hike, trek back to The Dwarika's Resort or take a short drive.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The Hall's gorgeous walled garden in full bloom is spectacular eye candy.

[The Hall at Bolton Abbey](#) - Reconnect in Nature's Embrace

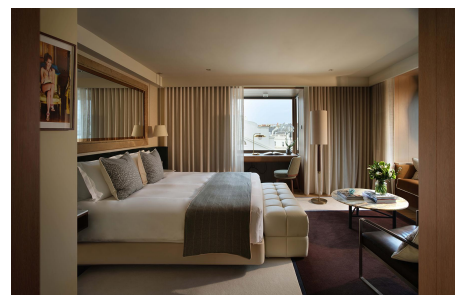
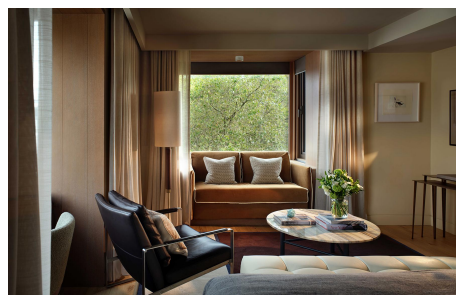
Located in 30,000 acres of rugged English countryside, the historic Hall at Bolton Abbey dates to the 1350s, and is the perfect base to connect with nature and the land. Conservation features highly on the estate with more than 13,500 acres of moorland and 2,000 acres of woodland under protection at Bolton Abbey. Heather moorland is rarer than rainforest, and there's little anywhere in the world outside of Britain and Ireland.

Guests can now enjoy a number of conservation-focused activities guided by some of the estate's employees. With a degree in conservation, Head Gamekeeper Tom Adamson and his team lead crack-of-dawn drives onto the moor to observe the elusive curlew and other endangered birds. Riverkeeper Mark Whitehead can take guests on wildlife excursions along the water's edge to spot otters and pups, cormorants, ospreys, and herons. Head Gardener Peter Smith has worked for the family for 47 years, and proudly leads tours of the Duke's private walled gardens. This showpiece has maze-like topiary dividing the beds for cut flowers, vegetables, and fruit trees, all produced for guest enjoyment at The Hall.

In addition, visitors can enjoy dusk bat walks using echolocation technology and fungal forays through the ancient woodlands with expert guides. These unique experiences leave guests with lasting memories of our extraordinary estate.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Enjoy the fresh, new, beautifully appointed look of The Hari's luxurious rooms.

[The Hari](#) - A Fresh New Look in the Heart of Belgravia

Under the tailored eye of Hospitality Designs Designer of the Year, Tara Bernard, guests of The Hari are certain to feel *new for the new year* here in the center of Belgravia. With sustainability at heart, emphasis has been made on the concept of reinventing and reimagining, rather than replacing. All 85 rooms in the luxurious boutique hotel feature newly lightened wide-plank wooden floors, and tailor-made rugs in shades of navy, cream, or rich chocolate-brown, providing a sense of calm and warmth to the rooms.

Additional updates include banquette window seats, which have been upholstered in a stunning honey-caramel velvet, and sheer curtains in a lighter, more neutral color, which help to bring together the harmony of the refreshed rooms.

The Hari's hidden gem - a beautiful, all-weather garden terrace in the center of the hotel, is partnering with Champagne house Ruinart to create a festive terrace. Both hotel and non-residential guests will be able to experience the wonders this partnership has to offer, with beautifully warming decorations and an exclusive Ruinart cocktail, from December 1^{5th}, 2023 to January 5th, 2024. Be sure not to miss it!

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Enjoy the natural beauty surrounding The Torricon in the Scottish Highlands.

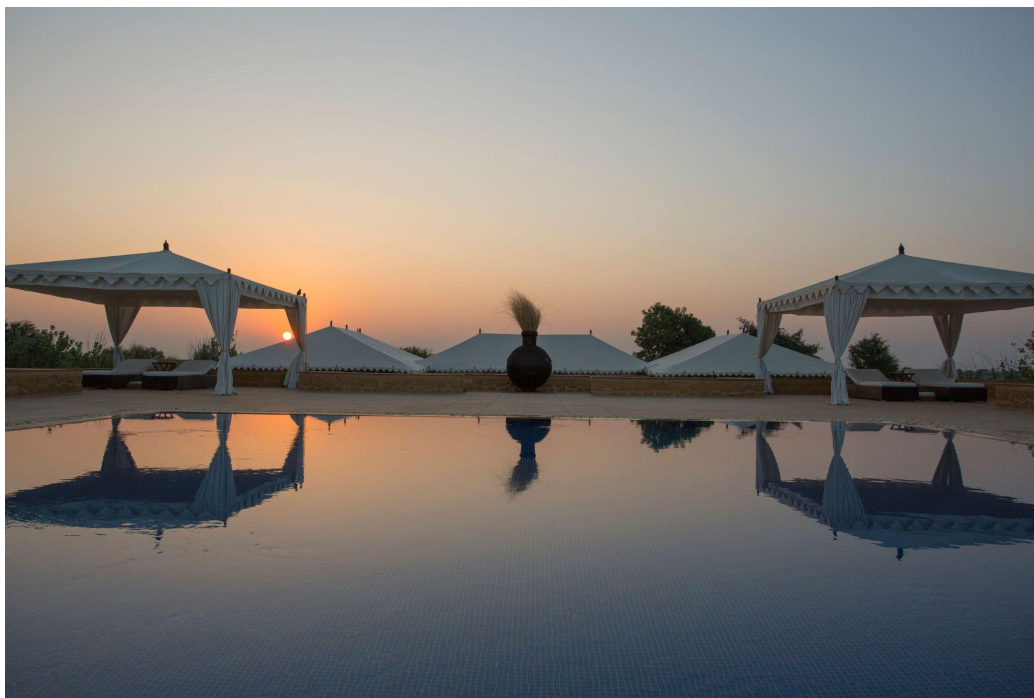
[The Torricon](#) - Great Escape in 2024

At The Torricon, visitors in 2024 can enjoy a range of new experiences that help them connect with the splendor of Wester Ross' stunning natural beauty as well as experience the best of the Highlands' local produce. A partnership with [Seaflower Skye](#) allows guests to enjoy a private water tour on Loch Torricon with locally caught seafood served on board. Perfect for intergenerational family groups, a tour aboard *Seaflower* is one of *the* best ways to explore all that the Highlands have to offer.

For a more intimate group experience, [Torricon tours](#) guided and curated by lifelong Highlander and expert guide Donald McDonald take guests to some of Scotland's most beautiful locations. Applecross, Skye, and Ulapool are all on the menu as Donald guides visitors through the fascinating history of the West Highlands. From illicit stills to modern-day distilleries, these tours are the perfect way to see the local area. En route, guests will also experience the culinary delights of the area in some of the best local eateries.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



A marvel in the heart of the desert land, The Serai - Jaisalmer is not to be missed.

[Ventours International](#) - A Mystical and Magical Desert Ramble

India's desert state, Rajasthan, is wedged between two major river systems of the Indian subcontinent. Peopled by a most remarkable warrior race of valiant fighters and passionate builders who ruled from their numerous hill fortresses, this geographical region nurtured a most extraordinary culture - rich in legends of romance, chivalry, sacrifice, and heroic deeds.

Who were these illustrious people? Renowned by legend to have been born out of the sacred fire pit, these "sons of kings" trace their Vanshavalis (genealogical lineage) to the sun and the moon.

Curious world travelers can welcome the new year at Rajasthan's most remote, rural, and regal offerings through Ventours:

- The Serai - Jaisalmer: Style and substance in the heart of the desert land.
- Mama's Resort & Camp - Khuri: An exclusive camp with 13 tents, located in the heart of the Thar Desert, offering a complete desert life experience.
- Vivaana Culture Hotel - Mandawa: A perfect address at which to enjoy the exquisitely painted havelis of the erstwhile merchants of this region. The frescos are a wonderful fusion of art and life.
- Narendra Bhawan - Bikaner: Once the residence of the Maharaja of Bikaner, this luxury hotel combines grandeur and modernity. Explore the city from here, visiting the impressive Junagarh fort and ancient temples.