

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Advent magic in Naslovna – where twinkling lights, festive traditions, and Croatian winter charm come alive.

Sparkle & Serenity: Your Guide to a Fabulous Festive Getaway

Dear Friends,

As the festive season approaches, we're delighted to bring you a curated collection of our partners' extraordinary holiday escapes. From the twinkling lights of Edinburgh's Christmas Market to the sunlit shores of Sri Lanka, you'll find countryside retreats in historic manors, vibrant city festivities from Sydney to New York, and tropical getaways where the sun shines on holiday memories in the making.

Light up your clients' imagination with images of luxurious Christmas house parties in Ireland, private New Year's celebrations under dazzling fireworks, sipping mulled wine by roaring fires in Cornwall, indulging in gourmet feasts in Paris, or exploring Croatia's award-winning Christmas markets. For those craving adventure, there are thrilling super jeep safaris in Iceland, falconry meet-and-greets in Somerset, and private villa escapes in the Southern Hemisphere's summer sunshine.

In South Africa, indulge your clients with a refined farm stay in the height of harvest season, an apropos time for giving thanks and sharing joy, or a tranquil seaside escape with fun activities for the whole family. Cater to a sense of adventure with ziplining and jungle tours in Costa Rica and canoe rides and wildlife encounters in the Amazon Rainforest of Brazil. Perhaps they'll try something else entirely, sinking into a wellness retreat in Greece's Peloponnese peninsula, where the best holiday gifts come in the form of meditative walks and soothing massages.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

With Christmas tree lightings, caroling, markets, gala dinners and cozy teas, family fun, and, of course, much ado about New Year's, these sensational festive opportunities make this year's holiday season anything but ordinary.

With limited availability across many of these sought-after locations, early booking is essential to secure the most magical moments of the season. Yet, even if your clients haven't quite decided on plans yet, there is bound to be a recommendation or opening with one of our partners, and perhaps this is the year your travelers try something brand new. As always, please reach out if we can assist your planning in any way.

Fondly,

Rebecca



Rebecca and Charlie enjoying the Festivities within the Napa Valley.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

Table of Contents

News from Africa	4
Babylonstoren, Franschhoek Wine Valley, South Africa - Celebrate a Blissful Festive Season on the Farm	4
The Oyster Box, South Africa - Toast the Festive Season in Style	5
News from Americas	6
American Stories Travel, East Coast, United States - A Sparkling New York City Getaway	6
Journey Group, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil - From Beach to Jungle, Last-Minute Escapes to Paradise	7
Meadowood Napa Valley, California - Celebrate the Festive Season at Meadowood	10
News from Asia	11
Resplendent Ceylon, Sri Lanka - Timeless Traditions and Tropical Charm	11
News from Australasia	12
Southern Crossings, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji - Insider Access to the Best Festive Season Celebrations Down Under	12
News from Europe	15
Curated Greece - A Different Kind of Christmas: Wellness and Wonder in the Peloponnese	15
Découvertes, France - Magical Montmartre in Winter: Where Paris Glows with Bohemian Sparkle	16
Dinaric Adventures, Croatia and Beyond - A Time of Magic, Tradition & Cinnamon	18
Nine Worlds, Iceland, and Greenland - Luxurious Retreats, Northern Lights, and Bespoke Adventures Await	19
Patamar Select, Portugal - A Festive Escape of Culture, Cuisine, and Comforts	20
The Living Circle Hotel Group - Explore Zürich During the Most Wonderful Time of the Year	22
Vakay in Tuscany, Italy - Milan's Winter Magic, Masterfully Crafted	23
News from Ireland	24
Ashford Castle, County Mayo, Ireland - Fireworks, Fine Dining, and Timeless Elegance	24
News from the United Kingdom	25
Dream Escape, UK and Ireland - Castles, Snowy Peaks, and Cozy Escapes	25
Great Fosters Estate, Egham Surrey, England - Celebrate a Quintessentially British Christmas	26
Historic House Hotels, Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, Llandudno, North Wales - Step into Christmas Past	27
Historic House Hotels, Hartwell House & Spa, Buckinghamshire, England - Warm Welcomes Await Your Clients at Hartwell House	28
Historic House Hotels, Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, North Yorkshire, England - Step into a Festive Wonderland	29
The Hari, London, England - A Conscious Christmas at The Hari	31
The Milestone Hotel & Residences, London, England - Festive Feasts, Live Music, and Seasonal Elegance	32
The Nare, Cornwall, England - From Beach Walks to Candlelit Dinners: Celebrate the Season	33
The Newt in Somerset, England - Festive Feasts, Fairy Lights, and Family Fun	35
100 Princes Street, Edinburgh, Scotland - A Festive Home Base for Edinburgh's Holiday Charm	37

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Africa](#)



Pure serenity awaits at the Babylonstoren Spa.

[Babylonstoren, Franschhoek Wine Valley, South Africa](#) - Celebrate a Blissful Festive Season on the Farm

Of all seasons on the farm, the festive season is an absolute favorite. On the southern tip of Africa, the bounty of harvest season coincides with the time of giving, sharing, and spreading joy.

Experience the abundant hospitality of Babylonstoren with a slow, restful stay at the Farm Hotel. Your serenity-seeking clients may start their morning with mindful movement guided by an expert instructor. In summer, stretch and breathe sessions take place on the lawn under the massive oaks, or in the slatted shade of the Clivia House, perhaps in the company of a mountain tortoise or a peep of curious chickens. Next, guests can head to Babel restaurant for a bountiful breakfast buffet. Schedule some restorative spa time or arrange a guided tour, recommend they take a shuttle to Soetmelksvlei, or suggest they head out on a gentle bike ride on the farm and bite into juicy summer produce, picked straight from the tree. In the late afternoon, hotel guests can join the Bergpoel drive, an exclusive experience to Babylonstoren's secluded mountain pool with the option of enjoying a picnic and taking a plunge in the pristine water.

There are so many ways to add sparkle to the holiday season at Babylonstoren. It's the ideal time of year for an unforgettable getaway in the South African sunshine.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Celebrate the festive season in coastal luxury at The Oyster Box, where the Indian Ocean sets the scene for unforgettable holiday moments.

[The Oyster Box, South Africa](#) - Toast the Festive Season in Style

Celebrate the festive season in coastal luxury at The Oyster Box, where the Indian Ocean sets the scene for unforgettable holiday moments. Guests are welcomed with a calendar of seasonal events, including Christmas carols on the Ocean Terrace, a Christmas Eve dinner in the elegant Grill Room (adults only), and lavish Christmas Day feasts across all dining venues, accompanied by live music. Families staying at the hotel can enjoy exclusive resident-only activities such as face painting, pizza making, karaoke competitions, and tug-of-war. New Year's Eve is a glamorous affair, with celebrations in the Pearl Room, Ocean Terrace, and Grill Room, featuring champagne, music, dancing, and gourmet menus. This property is perfect for clients seeking a blend of festive tradition and South African summer charm, with select suites still available. Whether it's exquisite dining with a sea view or a tranquil spa escape, The Oyster Box offers a warm, vibrant setting to toast the season in style.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Americas](#)



Experience the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in unparalleled style with the best views from a luxurious party.

[American Stories Travel, East Coast, United States](#) - A Sparkling New York City Getaway

Make it a Thanksgiving to remember for your clients as they stay steps from the big parade and skip the stress! Arrange a four-night stay at the stylish Marriott Marquis Times Square - complete with admission to American Stories Travel's [Exclusive Thanksgiving Day Parade Viewing Party at Del Frisco's](#). With king and double rooms still available (but going fast), the option to add extra nights, and all taxes included, it's as seamless as it is spectacular. All guests have to do is sit back and watch the parade while enjoying a hot brunch buffet with unlimited mimosas and bloody marys, while Broadway performers and family-friendly entertainment keep the morning festive and unforgettable.

From there, the holiday magic continues to unfold. They'll sip cocoa on a [caroling cruise](#), ride through Manhattan's lights by [horse-drawn carriage](#), or relive their favorite movie moments on a [Home Alone 2](#) tour. American Stories Travel's collection of private holiday experiences is perfect for couples, families, and multi-gen groups looking to make meaningful memories.

And the magic doesn't stop at Thanksgiving. Ring in the season at a [VIP Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting Party](#) or celebrate in style with an unforgettable [New Year's Eve](#) gala. Whether your clients come for the parade or stay for it all, this is an invitation to experience the holidays in true New York fashion.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Step into the enchanting charm of Izamal, the "Yellow City" in Yucatán, where vibrant yellow-painted houses and a majestic 16th-century Franciscan monastery create a magical atmosphere.

[Journey Group, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil](#) - From Beach to Jungle, Last-Minute Escapes to Paradise

[Journey Mexico](#)

Journey Mexico has crafted a [festive family itinerary through Baja](#) that's a world away from the expected. Think private scenic flights to swim with whale sharks, barefoot surf days in Todos Santos, and sunset farm-to-table dinners under the palms, all from the comfort of a spacious two-bedroom villa at the ultra-luxurious Chileno Bay Resort.

For those still looking to travel this festive season, Journey Mexico has scoured its villa portfolio for remaining availability. While Punta Mita is nearly full, there are still exceptional options across the Pacific Coast and Baja from beachfront retreats to jungle-fringed estates. And with a dedicated villa specialist on hand, agents can expect seamless support and tailored guidance for every villa enquiry.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Dip into paradise at The Springs Resort & Spa, Villa Guayaba, where a relaxing swim comes with a breathtaking volcano view. Photo credit - The Springs Resort & Spa

[Journey Costa Rica](#)

Journey Costa Rica has released their [final luxury villa availability for the 2025 festive](#)^{**} season, a handpicked collection of the last keys remaining in Costa Rica and Panama. From beachfront retreats in Santa Teresa and Las Catalinas to jungle hideaways in Uvita and private island escapes in Bocas del Toro, this curated list represents the *last true opportunities* for high-value clients seeking space, privacy, and a sense of place over the holidays. Availability is extremely limited, with most villas holding just one festive week open. Whether for families, groups, or couples seeking a tropical escape with wow factor, Journey Costa Rica is on hand to tailor something extraordinary while space still remains.

^{**}Availability correct at the time of distribution and can change quickly.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, where pristine white sand dunes cradle vibrant white freshwater lagoons, creating a surreal and unforgettable landscape.

[Journey Brazil](#)

Journey Brazil has curated an exclusive [12-night itinerary](#) that showcases the very best the country has to offer. Think dramatic landscapes, vibrant cities, and unforgettable festive moments, all timed perfectly for New Year 2026. The journey begins with three nights inside Iguassu National Park at the legendary Belmond Hotel das Cataratas, continues with a sun-drenched stay in Rio de Janeiro to ring in the New Year in true Carioca style, and ends deep in the Amazon Rainforest with canoe rides, wildlife encounters, and jungle immersion at one of Brazil's finest boutique lodges.

This is just a glimpse of what they can create. With access to last-minute festive availability and a portfolio of bold, high-touch experiences, Journey Brazil is ready to tailor exceptional adventures for clients looking for something truly out of the ordinary.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Celebrate the festive season at Meadowood Napa Valley, where holiday magic awaits amidst enchanting celebrations and exceptional hospitality!

[Meadowood Napa Valley, California](#) - Celebrate the Festive Season at Meadowood

The magic of the holidays awaits at Meadowood, with enchanting celebrations throughout the season. Experience the warmth, wonder, and joy of the season surrounded by Meadowood's natural beauty and exceptional hospitality. These treasured moments with family and friends will create lasting holiday memories.

Highlights include:

- **Tree Lighting at Forum** - Join in as Meadowood illuminates its majestic tree and transforms Forum into a winter wonderland. Guests enjoy heartwarming caroling and seasonal drinks while creating cherished memories with loved ones.
- **Santa's Helpers Camp** - The little ones will discover holiday magic through a three-hour seasonal adventure camp! Led by beloved Meadowood instructors, children ages 5+ will enjoy merry fitness activities, exciting scavenger hunts, delicious hot chocolate, creative crafts, and a delicious lunch.
- **Family Holiday Party** - This complimentary celebration for Club members and Resort guests features delightful children's entertainment, holiday treats, and photos with Santa himself.
- **Holiday Dining** - Throughout the season, Forum restaurant offers enchanting holiday dining in a convivial setting, honoring traditions for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year.
- **Wine Country Winter Escape** - Enhance the festive getaway with an exclusive package featuring a generous \$1,000 estate credit and special welcome amenity—the perfect way to indulge in Meadowood's world-class dining, spa services, and recreational activities.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Asia](#)



Discovering pure Christmas magic on a serene walk through the enchanting grounds of Ceylon Tea Trails.

[Resplendent Ceylon, Sri Lanka](#) - Timeless Traditions and Tropical Charm

Resplendent invites your clients to embrace the festive spirit with a thoughtfully curated holiday calendar across its three properties, blending cherished traditions, gourmet dining, and meaningful experiences. Guests are welcome to celebrate, create memories, and share joy through immersive seasonal activities.

At **Ceylon Tea Trails**, Christmas is steeped in timeless charm with six-course festive menus, carols by the fire, and Santa's gifts for children. New Year's Eve unfolds with signature cocktails, fireworks, and a lavish dinner, followed by island traditions on New Year's Day. Daily highlights include festive turndowns, cream teas, and family activities such as bird watching, gardening, and nature walks.

Wild Coast Tented Lodge offers a truly unique setting between the jungle and the ocean. Guests can enjoy six-course dining, live music, and carols on Christmas Eve, with Santa bringing delight on Christmas Day. New Year's Eve celebrations feature cocktails, live music, and fine dining, while New Year's Day begins with cultural ceremonies.

At **Cape Weligama**, festive dining is paired with live music, children's activities, and fireworks on New Year's Eve. Guests can also enjoy daily sundowners, a tree-lighting ceremony, artisan markets, mask-making workshops, kids' surfing lessons, and community experiences, making the season unforgettable.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Australasia](#)



Ring in the New Year in unparalleled style as Sydney's iconic fireworks light up the harbor in a breathtaking display of luxury and celebration. Photo credit - Tourism Australia

[Southern Crossings, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji](#) - Insider Access to the Best Festive Season Celebrations Down Under

Celebrate the reversed Southern Hemisphere seasons with a peak summer fun festive season Down Under. Your clients can escape to a private villa to celebrate Christmas by the beach with family and friends (or to quietly disappear from them all). They'll see in the New Year at coveted tables by the water's edge for front-row views of the Sydney fireworks, and celebrate summer with an exciting line-up of some of the region's hottest annual events.

With Australia and New Zealand's history and heritage often leading back to England, many local celebrations still echo British traditions (on December 25th): Santa Claus in shopping malls and decorated shop windows, 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.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Catching the Boxing Day Test at the iconic MCG in Melbourne - a true summer tradition! Photo credit - Tourism Australia

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 Boxing Day test (which this year, will be the 4th test of the hotly contested Australia vs. England Ashes series).

Again, with summer the central theme, New Year's Eve celebrations are largely outdoors. Across the region, there are fireworks and festivals to see in the New Year—from the SkyTower Fireworks over Auckland or lakeside light spectacular over Queenstown, to Brisbane's riverside and the rooftops of Melbourne ... but it is the world-famous fireworks spectacular in Sydney that really steals the show!

The celebrations continue well into the new year, with annual highlights including the Sydney Festival (January 8-25, 2026), the Santos Down Under cycling event in South Australia (January 16-25, 2026), and the Australian Open Tennis Grand Slam in Melbourne (January 18-February 1, 2026).

Alternatively, your clients may wish to do as the locals do, and slip away to a beachside “bach” (that's New Zealand for

“holiday home”) to enjoy a slice of the enviable local lifestyle (Southern Crossings' Travel Designers have access to some spectacularly inviting private villas right across the region).

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



The stunning Blanket Bay Villa, perfectly framed by the majestic Mount Earnslaw, offers an unparalleled luxurious escape in New Zealand.

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 up-beat vibe wherever one goes with a full calendar of local outdoor events - but it is important also to note that this is peak season: houses, hotels, touring, and tables with harbor views book up well in advance, so plan early (especially for harbor-view accommodation in Sydney and the luxury lodges across the region).

While festive season 2025/26 availability is already becoming scarce, with a little flexibility and creativity (along with some exclusive-access availability) Southern Crossings' Travel Designers can still assist those who act now to help navigate the pockets of availability and curate a most memorable festive season celebration at one of New Zealand's luxury lodges, a New Year's Eve with Sydney fireworks views, or a fabulous family summer vacation at an ultraluxe private villa.

Availability is quite limited at locations like Lizard Island and Huka Lodge, but Southern Crossings does have access to some special availability, including Otahuna for Christmas, Sydney Park Hyatt for New Year's Eve (and others). Of course, this can change quickly, so reach out for the latest availability.

It's also important to note that it's not too soon to start planning for the festive season 2026/27 to secure preferred availability.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Europe](#)



Unwind and reconnect at Euphoria Retreat in Mystras, a world-renowned wellness sanctuary nestled in the mythical Peloponnese.

[Curated Greece](#) - A Different Kind of Christmas: Wellness and Wonder in the Peloponnese

Toward the end of the year, it becomes a natural time to look back on how we've grown, what we've overcome, and what we wish to carry forward. While the holidays are often centered on celebration and togetherness, they're also a perfect moment to turn inward and reconnect with ourselves. This December, Curated Greece invites travelers to step away from the seasonal rush and experience Christmas a little differently—through presence, peace, and wellbeing. Nestled in the mythical landscape of the Peloponnese, surrounded by pine forests and Mount Taygetus, Euphoria Retreat in Mystras is a world-renowned wellness sanctuary. Here, holistic healing meets ancient Greek philosophy, with soothing massages, energy balancing rituals, and warm Byzantine hammams. Days unfold with meditative walks through refreshing mountain air, followed by cozy interiors and nourishing, seasonal meals that nurture body and soul. Guests can also explore the nearby UNESCO-listed Mystras town, which feels especially magical in winter. Centuries-old chapels, castle ruins, and stone pathways offer a cultural depth that complements the inner journey. A truly meaningful escape for your travelers to end their year with intention and step into the next one mindful and inspired.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Step into a Parisian fairytale this festive season with Découvertes, where Montmartre's bohemian charm meets unparalleled luxury amidst twinkling lights and romantic winter air.

[Découvertes, France](#) - Magical Montmartre in Winter: Where Paris Glows with Bohemian Sparkle

This Christmas season, step into the enchanting world of Montmartre, where Paris's bohemian heart beats under a blanket of twinkling lights and crisp, romantic air. Known for its cobbled streets, charming artists' studios, and the breathtaking Sacré-Cœur, Montmartre transforms into a magical winter wonderland, perfect for a luxurious holiday escape.

Picture yourself sipping velvety hot chocolate in a cozy café once frequented by Picasso, before wandering past jewel-like shop windows draped in festive décor. The scent of fresh crêpes fills the air as local artists sketch the winter beauty of the square. Evenings come alive with glowing lanterns, intimate jazz bars, and candlelit bistros serving decadent French classics.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Embrace the magic of a Montmartre winter wonderland—perfect for a charming snow adventure!

Montmartre has charming boutique luxury hotels with stunning views of Paris, private art tours just for your clients, and special bookings at top Michelin-starred restaurants. Decouvertes takes care of every detail, so your travelers' Montmartre holiday will be full of beauty, romance, and pure joy.

Treat yourself this season—because in Montmartre, every moment feels like it's wrapped in gold and stardust. Paris is calling, and its most artistic quarter is ready to welcome your guests in sparkling style.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Experience the magic of Zagreb, a multiple-time winner of the Best Christmas Market in Europe, where festive energy glows and cinnamon-scented treats delight.

[Dinaric Adventures, Croatia and Beyond](#) - A Time of Magic, Tradition & Cinnamon

Winter in Croatia is full of light, flavor, and tradition—with just the right touch of magic. From coastal towns to inland cities, destinations across the country offer charming, soulful ways to celebrate the holiday season.

Zagreb, a multiple-time winner of the Best Christmas Market in Europe title, glows with festive energy—from its twinkling parks and music stages to cozy corners filled with mulled wine and cinnamon-scented treats. A winter stroll through Zrinjevac is pure enchantment. Šibenik brings an urban, contemporary twist to tradition. Its Adventura is a plastic-free Christmas market set in a medieval town, offering live music, creative workshops, and a refreshingly modern holiday vibe.

Split is legendary for its Christmas Eve (Badnjak) on the Riva, where locals celebrate from morning with bakalar, fritule, and music. New Year's Eve by the sea is just as iconic. On Hvar, a cappella concerts fill stone squares, while families join workshops to decorate UNESCO-protected gingerbread (medenjaci) and create ornaments.

Winter in Croatia also includes traditional group sea dips and games like picigin, especially along the coast—proving it's not just a summer destination. And let's not forget the food: sausages, sauerkraut, Slavonian cured meats, sweets. Croatia in winter is festive, honest, and utterly delicious.

The creative team at Dinaric Adventures can unlock the hidden delights of Croatia through the festive season and curate the perfect itinerary for travel through the country's contrasting regions.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Colorful fireworks reflected in the icy waters of a small pond at Tjörnin in Reykjavik. Photo credit Siggeir Hafsteinsson

[Nine Worlds, Iceland, and Greenland](#) - Luxurious Retreats, Northern Lights, and Bespoke Adventures Await

The festive season in Iceland is unlike anywhere else—tranquil, luminous, and steeped in natural beauty. As December approaches, Iceland becomes a winter wonderland of snow-covered landscapes, shimmering skies, and fun celebrations, offering the perfect setting for a meaningful holiday escape.

At Nine Worlds, there is still select availability for the Christmas period. This is an ideal time to offer your clients something exceptional: luxurious countryside retreats, private accommodation surrounded by serene wilderness, and bespoke itineraries curated for both relaxation and adventure.

Iceland's festive season is a unique blend of folklore, coziness, and quiet celebration. With only a few hours of daylight, evenings come alive with candlelight, festive meals, and the magic of northern lights overhead. From indulgent Christmas dinners and geothermal spa moments to thrilling super jeep safaris and spectacular New Year's fireworks, each journey is tailored and memorable. Whether your clients are looking for a peaceful holiday or a winter adventure, Iceland delivers with authenticity and elegance.

With limited availability over peak dates, early planning will be key to securing the finest properties and experiences.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Portuguese nights illuminated by spectacular fireworks.

Patamar Select, Portugal - A Festive Escape of Culture, Cuisine, and Comforts

This holiday season, Patamar Select invites travel advisors to offer clients a thoughtfully curated journey through Portugal, where culture, seasonal traditions, and refined comfort come together. In Óbidos, travelers can wander the medieval streets adorned with festive lights, explore artisan workshops, and enjoy tastings of local chocolate, gingerbread, and nearby wines, all while staying in carefully selected boutique accommodations within the historic center. Privately guided castle tours, complete with special meals, allow guests to connect with the town's history while enjoying its seasonal charm.

In Lisbon, the holiday spirit comes alive through elegant decorations, lively markets, and cultural experiences. Guests can join a holiday food tour, sampling traditional Portuguese seasonal specialties such as *bacalhau à brás*, *rabanadas*, *bolo-rei*, and *travesseiros*, paired with regional wines and liqueurs. Private guided walks through historic neighborhoods, visits to Michelin-starred restaurants, and stays in centrally located luxury hotels showcase festive tradition, gastronomy, and comfort. In Porto, riverside streets glow under seasonal lights and boutique markets brimming with local crafts. Your clients can explore the historic center on guided walks, enjoy fine dining at select restaurants, and take part in private wine tastings in the Douro Valley, all while staying in carefully chosen luxury accommodations.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



In Portugal, the holidays flow from town to city to mountain.

Further inland, Serra da Estrela and Trás-os-Montes provide a quieter, immersive holiday. Eco-luxury lodges and boutique spa retreats in Serra da Estrela allow guests to enjoy guided winter hikes, private skiing excursions, and tastings of the region's cheeses and wines. In Trás-os-Montes and central villages, travelers can experience seasonal folklore, communal bonfires, and masked Caretos, blending authentic local traditions with the comfort of refined accommodations. And finally, Madeira, a warmer, subtropical holiday experience, features the island's natural beauty matched with its seasonal celebrations.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Widder Hotel, The Living Circle: where unforgettable moments are served.

[The Living Circle Hotel Group](#) - Explore Zürich During the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The annual Christmas lights “Lucy,” named after the Beatles song “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds,” sparkle over Zürich’s famous shopping street, Bahnhofstrasse. Young carolers fill The Singing Christmas Tree with song. Numerous magical Christmas markets are scattered throughout the city, and a soft layer of snow blankets the ground. The festive season in Zürich is in full swing.

Zürich during the Advent season is arguably at its most beautiful. Families, friends, and couples stroll through the old town, sip warming cups of mulled wine while Christmas shopping, enjoy the Illuminarium light show on the inner court of the National Museum, and delight in the performances at Circus Conelli along the sparkling Limmat River.

A special highlight the city has to offer for food lovers is the annual Widder Wonder Garden: a hidden gem in the Widder Hotel, located in the heart of the old town, framed by picturesque medieval architecture. Each winter, the Widder Garden turns into a magical courtyard filled with twinkling lights and Christmas decorations. Gondolas and tables equipped with blankets offer a warm and intimate refuge from the winter chill. Locals and tourists alike gather to savor traditional Swiss dishes such as cheese fondue and raclette, rounding off a festive day in the coziest of atmospheres.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Indulge in the enchanting festive atmosphere and exquisite holiday shopping opportunities found only in magnificent Milan.

[Vakay in Tuscany, Italy](#) - Milan's Winter Magic, Masterfully Crafted

Imagine Robert and Shirley stepping off their flight into the crisp Milanese air, ready for a winter escape. After a seamless airport pickup and a refreshing pause at their elegant hotel, their personal Vakay driver escorts them into the vibrant heart of the city. He doesn't just point out landmarks; he unveils Milan's hidden soul, from the *en vogue* boutiques of the Quadrilatero d'Oro to secret courtyards glowing with festive lights.

As dusk settles, they are whisked to the enchanting Villaggio delle Meraviglie, complete with its sparkling ice-skating rink and Santa Claus's welcoming home. A pause for *aperitivi* is followed by a leisurely stroll through charming market stalls, culminating in the awe-inspiring sight of the towering Christmas tree beneath the glass dome of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Freed from the stress of navigation, they simply savor each magical moment.

The evening ends with a perfectly creamy saffron risotto in an intimate restaurant, then dancing to smooth jazz in a club known only to insiders.

This is the Vakay difference: whether curating a festive Milanese adventure, a Renaissance art journey in Florence, a private wine escape through Chianti, or a moonlit gondola ride in Venice, the team crafts Italian experiences that linger vividly long after the trip is over.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from Ireland](#)



Glimmering glass ornaments and festive red ribbons adorn a majestic pine tree, part of the beautiful Christmas decorations at Ashford Castle.

[Ashford Castle, County Mayo, Ireland](#) - Fireworks, Fine Dining, and Timeless Elegance

Spending New Year's festivities at Ashford Castle is an unforgettable experience that blends luxury, tradition, and celebration in one of Ireland's most breathtaking settings. Nestled on the shores of Lough Corrib in County Mayo, this historic 800-year-old castle offers a magical backdrop for ringing in the New Year in style. From the moment you arrive, the warm Irish hospitality and grandeur of the castle set the tone for a truly special celebration. The castle is beautifully decorated for the season, with glittering lights and festive touches that create a cozy yet elegant atmosphere. Guests can indulge in exquisite dining prepared by Executive Head Chef Liam Finnegan, featuring the finest Irish and seasonal produce paired with exceptional wines and champagnes.

Ashford Castle's New Year's Eve gala is a highlight, with live music, dancing, and plenty of festive cheer. The evening culminates in a countdown to midnight, where guests raise a glass to the year and the rhythm of fireworks cascading above the castle grounds. For those seeking quieter moments, the castle grounds offer serene winter walks and starlit views that make the experience even more enchanting.

Beyond the celebrations, Ashford Castle guests may partake in a number of activities that make a holiday stay unforgettable. From falconry and archery, history walks to boat trips, guests can also tailor their experience to their own sense of adventure and relaxation. To welcome the New Year at Ashford Castle is to begin the year wrapped in romance, surrounded by history, beauty, and the promise of cherished memories that will linger long after the celebrations fade.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence

[News from the United Kingdom](#)



Unwind in a Narnia-style wonderland with Dream Escape's luxurious Scottish winter retreat, where Perthshire's wild beauty meets unparalleled elegance.

[Dream Escape, UK and Ireland](#) - Castles, Snowy Peaks, and Cozy Escapes

For gift-wrapped fairytale castles and snowflake-dusted escapism, Highland Perthshire is the perfect winter getaway. In the depths of winter, Perthshire turns into a Narnia-style wonderland of frost-fringed pine forests and snowcapped mountains. Rivers rush frothy and brown, granite-grey lochs are swollen with meltwater, and waterfalls freeze into spear-like shards. The natural landscape is wild and untamed, but below the frozen peaks, there are pockets of prettiness, tranquil glens, and quaint villages where you can hole up with an artisan-roasted flat white or a dram of whisky beside a roaring fire in a local pub.

Dark nights drawing in also add drama to the region's storybook castles, ruined cathedrals, and rich clan history; the big names here: Murray, Robertson, and Menzies. There's even a palace. From Robert the Bruce to Charles II, Scotland's kings were crowned for centuries on the Stone of Destiny (now housed in Edinburgh Castle) at Scone Palace just outside the capital, Perth.

Rosie Peattie, Client Relationship Manager at Dream Escape said "The Perthshire landscape varies from fertile farmland to rugged mountains and lochs, as you travel north, crossing over the Highland Boundary Fault close to Dunkeld. An abundance of experiences and adventures await all age groups, and I can highly recommend a visit to 'Big Tree Country.' My latest find in a farmyard is a tiny church with an exceptionally rare and fascinating 1600s painted ceiling." Read more [HERE](#) and contact Dream Escape to discover the perfect Scottish winter retreat.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Experience the warmth and wonder of a quintessential British Christmas at Great Fosters Estate, where festive decorations and the glow of roaring fires create an enchanting holiday haven.

[Great Fosters Estate, Egham Surrey, England](#) - Celebrate a Quintessentially British Christmas

Great Fosters, a 16th-century Tudor estate nestled in the English countryside near Windsor, offers a truly quintessential British Christmas. As December unfolds, the estate transforms into a festive haven with twinkling lights, roaring fires, and the scent of mulled wine filling the air. In the lead-up to Christmas, guests can enjoy seasonal afternoon teas, wintry walks around the grounds, and visits to nearby attractions, all complemented by cozy evenings with winter cocktails beside the fire.

The Christmas Package, available from December 24th to 28th, includes carols by the fire pits with mulled wine and toasted marshmallows, a lavish Christmas Day lunch in the historic Tithe Barn, leisurely breakfasts, afternoon tea, falconry displays, and live music on Boxing Day.

Following Christmas, Twixmas Stays offer a chance to unwind with spa treatments, countryside walks, and royal afternoon tea. Guests can also explore Windsor Great Park, with horse-drawn carriage rides adding a regal touch.

To welcome the New Year, the estate hosts a glamorous celebration featuring a five-course dinner, live music, and dancing in the Tithe Barn. Availability is limited, and early booking is recommended for those seeking timeless luxury and festive enchantment.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Delight in the festive spirit with a delicious afternoon tea at Bodysgallen Hall.

[Historic House Hotels, Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, Llandudno, North Wales](#) - Step into Christmas Past

This Christmas, allow your clients to step into the warmth and elegance of a bygone era with a traditional three-day celebration at Bodysgallen Hall, a distinguished Grade 1 17th-century country house hotel nestled in the heart of North Wales. From the moment you arrive on Christmas Eve, you'll be welcomed with the finest hospitality, a very comfortable bedroom to rest in, and plump sofas to sink into beside the fireside. Festivities commence with mulled wine and mince pies, the fragrant aromas of cinnamon and cloves filling the air, and twinkling lights from the Christmas tree adorned with baubles and trinkets set the scene. As the evening unfolds, a champagne reception precedes a candlelit three-course dinner prepared by award-winning chefs. Transport can be arranged if needed to attend Midnight Mass at the nearby church, and your clients will be welcomed with port and mince pies upon their return.

Christmas Day starts with a leisurely breakfast and the enchanting views across the gardens to Conwy Castle, with a backdrop of the Snowdonia mountain range. A traditional Christmas luncheon with all the trimmings follows. Guests may spend the afternoon at leisure, relaxing in a comfortable niche, or taking a bracing walk through the 200 acres of parkland and gardens that surround the Hall. A light buffet supper in the evening rounds off the perfect day. On Boxing Day, guests enjoy a relaxed breakfast and spend the day at leisure, perhaps booking a treatment in the Bodysgallen Spa, or venturing out to explore the nearby coast or the medieval town of Conwy with its historic 13th-century castle. In the evening, it's time for the grand finale, a champagne farewell reception accompanied by music from a Welsh harp, followed by a sumptuous four-course gala dinner.

With the ambience of a private house party and timeless charm, with every detail taken care of, Bodysgallen Hall offers a Christmas experience steeped in tradition, comfort, and peace, leaving fond memories to share with family and friends for years to come.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Hartwell House: Elegance in the embrace of winter.

[Historic House Hotels, Hartwell House & Spa, Buckinghamshire, England](#) - Warm Welcomes Await Your Clients at Hartwell House

As the holiday season draws near, Hartwell House & Spa extends a warm invitation to its valued guests from the United States to experience the estate this December. Located in the Vale of Aylesbury, the historic house offers a quintessentially English country retreat for the festive season. Steeped in 17th-century heritage, Hartwell beautifully blends timeless charm with modern comfort.

Christmas is a truly special time to visit Hartwell House, and there is current availability for a traditional three-day house party within this magnificent stately home. From crackling log fires to beautifully adorned Christmas trees in the drawing rooms, every detail is designed to capture the spirit and warmth of the season.

The celebrations begin on Christmas Eve with a champagne reception, followed by a three-course dinner. Christmas Day features a spectacular four-course lunch with wine pairings, after which guests are invited to relax and enjoy His Majesty King Charles III's Christmas message in the Library. On Boxing Day, the festivities continue with Hartwell Brunch and conclude with a formal black-tie four-course dinner and a fun casino evening.

Looking ahead, Hartwell House offers a variety of seasonal events and experiences towards the end of 2025 and into 2026—from Festive Wreath-Making Workshops to a popular Winter Break, offering the perfect start to the New Year in comfort and style.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Embrace the festive season at Middlethorpe Hall, where a roaring fire and warm glow await.

[Historic House Hotels, Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, North Yorkshire, England](#) - Step into a Festive Wonderland

As the festive season approaches, Middlethorpe Hall in York is transformed into a winter haven of elegance and cheer. Nestled on the outskirts of the historic city, this Grade 2 17th-century country house hotel offers the perfect setting to celebrate the season in style and the perfect escape for a memorable Christmas.

Throughout November and December, Middlethorpe Hall hosts a series of festive events to get you into the Christmas spirit. Enjoy indulgent festive Afternoon Teas served in our elegant drawing rooms, complete with homemade mince pies, mulled wine, and a backdrop of beautifully decorated halls and Christmas trees, and glowing log fires. The Hall's Candlelit Dinners showcase the best of seasonal Yorkshire produce, accompanied by fine wines and impeccable service, all in the grandeur of our panelled dining rooms.

The three-day Christmas House Party promises a truly magical escape. Arrive on Christmas Eve to a warm welcome and festive buffet of afternoon tea delicacies and beverages. The house party kicks off in style with a champagne reception accompanied by a local choir singing carols, after which a sumptuous dinner is served in the panelled dining rooms. Afterwards, guests have the option to attend midnight mass at York Minster or the local St Andrew's Parish Church, returning to a warm welcome of Port and mince pies.

Christmas Day begins with a hearty Yorkshire breakfast. A Bucks-Fizz reception heralds the traditional Christmas luncheon with all the trimmings. Carrying on true British tradition, guests gather in the Drawing Room to listen to the King's Christmas Message while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with freshly made mince pies. In the evening, relax over a light buffet supper to end the day.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



A warm Christmas welcome awaits at Middlethorpe Hall.

Boxing Day offers time to explore York with its Christmas lights and medieval alleyways, or relax in the spa. In the evening, following a champagne reception, a delicious four-course farewell black-tie gala dinner will be served, with live music and a fun casino to conclude the day.

Whether your guests are joining in for a seasonal afternoon tea, a luxurious overnight stay, or the full Christmas House Party experience, Middlethorpe Hall offers the perfect blend of tradition, comfort, and festive cheer.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



A dazzling display of traditional decorations and twinkling lights greets you at The Hari, London.

[The Hari, London, England](#) - A Conscious Christmas at The Hari

This year, The Hari invites your clients to celebrate A Conscious Christmas, where creativity meets sustainability and festive magic comes with purpose. In their front window, discover a giant, one-of-a-kind Christmas stocking, meticulously crafted from reclaimed fabrics and offcuts from The Hari itself. More than just a decoration, it's a celebration of craftsmanship, ingenuity, and the beauty of reuse. Step inside to be greeted by the warm glow of shimmering gold decorations, creating a festive atmosphere across the hotel. On arrival, guests enjoy mulled wine and freshly baked mince pies in the lobby, setting the tone for a season of connection and joy. Wander over to The Hari Bar's brass trolley for festive hot chocolate, with or without a splash of one's favorite liquor, or indulge in a whimsical festive afternoon tea, a playful yet elegant assortment of seasonal sweets. For those seeking a more indulgent experience, il Pampero offers a six-course Christmas menu with Italian flair, designed to delight the senses. At The Hari, Christmas is about slowing down, spending time together, and creating memories—all while celebrating the magic of the season consciously.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Step into a world of festive elegance at The Milestone Hotel & Residences.

[The Milestone Hotel & Residences, London, England](#) - Festive Feasts, Live Music, and Seasonal Elegance

The Milestone Hotel & Residences in Kensington transforms into a festive haven during the holidays, offering bespoke seasonal experiences for every guest. Highlights include a Festive Afternoon Tea in the Park Lounge, a six-course Christmas Eve dinner with carol singers and live piano, and a spectacular Christmas Day feast featuring a five-course tasting menu. New Year's Eve is marked by live music, champagne, and a gourmet six-course celebration to welcome 2026. For private gatherings, the hotel offers intimate dining rooms and festive cocktail receptions. Advisors can confidently recommend The Milestone for couples, families, and solo travelers looking to immerse themselves in London's seasonal charm, with Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland and Royal Albert Hall just steps away.



Book into one of their exquisite two- or three-bedroom residences for extra comfort and that home-from-home feel.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



*Experience quintessential 5-star luxury and festive celebrations at
The Nare Hotel, perfectly poised on the Atlantic Ocean.*

[The Nare, Cornwall, England](#) - From Beach Walks to Candlelit Dinners: Celebrate the Season

As autumn turns to winter and the festive season draws near, the five-star Nare Hotel transforms into a cozy coastal haven. Nestled in Cornwall, a beautiful and rugged corner of the English coastline, The Nare blends British tradition with the sparkle of Christmas, offering guests the perfect escape to rest, indulge, and celebrate.

By day, guests can explore the famous South West Coast Path from the garden gate, take bracing beach walks along Carne beaches' golden sands, or simply retreat to the drawing room to watch the winter waves roll into Gerrans Bay. Within the hotel, roaring fires, fresh flowers, and cozy armchairs create an atmosphere of refined comfort. Afternoon tea is served daily, complete with warm scones and Cornish clotted cream.

Come evening, enjoy a five-course dining experience, complete with silver service, a daily changing table d'hôte menu, hors-d'œuvre trolleys, and not forgetting the signature flambés, or opt for a more contemporary dining experience in the newly reimagined Quarterdeck Seafood Restaurant. With an abundance of local Cornish seafood, it's a must for anyone visiting and looking for a true taste of Cornwall.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Serenity by the sea at The Nare.

The festive season is particularly magical at The Nare. Whether enjoying a quiet book by the fire, champagne toasts, or the convivial atmosphere of the season, guests will find a perfect balance of relaxation and celebration. Seasonal touches, twinkling decorations, candlelit dinners, and carefully curated wine lists all bring a sense of occasion, while staff provide attentive, traditional service to ensure every detail feels effortless.

Rooms and suites are in high demand during this time, and with limited availability. Early booking is strongly recommended. Contact The Nare today to book a perfectly British festive break.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Cozy up in a private haven at The Newt in Somerset, where a beautifully lit fireplace and festive decorations create the perfect setting for a luxurious holiday escape.

[The Newt in Somerset, England](#) - Festive Feasts, Fairy Lights, and Family Fun

Nostalgic moments, gift giving and gathering, and feasting with those you hold dear. Your clients will step into a world of wonderment at The Newt and share in the flavors, fairy-lit sights, and festivities with family. Join in a [luxury Christmas hotel stay in Somerset](#) and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

Inspire your travelers to pack up their finery, walking boots, and their favorite people for three or four nights of feasting, festivities, and relaxation in Somerset. The hotel's elves have conjured that festive feeling in every room, with treats and gifts on arrival and an itinerary jam-packed with unforgettable estate experiences to enjoy alongside celebratory food, drinks, and a sprinkling of Newt magic.

The four-night Christmas break (December 23-27) includes dinner each evening, a decadent four-course Christmas Day lunch with wine, Boxing Day brunch, breakfast each morning, and festive cream teas daily.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Book in over Christmas to enjoy guided walks, bauble painting, chocolate making, falconry meet-and-greets, carols, Christmas stories, movie nights, biscuit decorating, live jazz, a magical St. Nicholas visit, and more.

Three-night celebrations over New Year's (December 30-January 2) include a stock of festive in-room mini bar treats, breakfast each morning, a welcome dinner at the Garden Café, New Year's Eve tasting menu at The Botanical Rooms, and a Hadspen House Party with music and dancing to see in the New Year. Revelers can recover over New Year's Day brunch and play to win a two-night luxury hotel break at The Newt's annual New Year's Day Croquet Championship.

REBECCA RECOMMENDS

Inspirational destinations & properties of excellence



Step into a Scottish winter wonderland at 100 Princes Street, where the beautifully decorated lobby, adorned with a festive Christmas tree, invites you to a luxurious holiday experience.

[100 Princes Street, Edinburgh, Scotland](#) - A Festive Home Base for Edinburgh's Holiday Charm

100 Princes Street offers a boutique base for clients looking to experience Edinburgh's magical winter festivities. Located near the city's iconic Christmas Market in East Princes Street Gardens, guests can explore over 70 artisan stalls, enjoy views from the LNER Big Wheel, and take a thrilling ride on the Starflyer. The nearby West Princes Street Gardens hosts a Festive Family Funfair, while George Street features an undercover ice rink with themed skating sessions. St. Andrew Square brings storytelling with Santa, a letter-writing station, and a dazzling Christmas Tree Maze. Back at the hotel, guests can warm up with whisky tastings, unwind to live music, and indulge in seasonal Scottish cuisine, all set against views of Edinburgh Castle.

Edinburgh is also renowned for its Hogmanay celebrations, Scotland's traditional New Year's festival, where the city comes alive with vibrant street parties, concerts, fireworks, and centuries-old customs to welcome the new year in unforgettable style. Select dates over Christmas and Hogmanay (New Year) remain available, making this a prime opportunity to enjoy the city's vibrant celebrations from a stylish and exclusive retreat.