

# Gostelow Report Live

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## SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 6th, 2017

**AccorHotels'** Sébastien Bazin flew in to announce, with Nakheel Chairman Ali Rashid Lootah, a stunning Raffles project on Dubai's Palm – PALM360, to be the Palm's highest building (853 feet), a 125-room hotel tower and a separate residences tower, the two joined, at 558 feet high, by a 508-foot over-air swimming pool.

What do buyers want? **Ovation Travel's** hyper-energetic Jack Ezon (who threw a futures thinktank Monday, pre-Forum) wants more ammunition to repel disruptors - around the show, he'll be seeking Croatia, Montenegro, plus Portugal, Greece • David Rowan, former *Wired* Editor, predicts luxury'll include authenticity, and deeply personalised nutrition: Tomislav Milinovic, Split's Calvados Club, suggests Croatian mountainside food-wine pairings, or private concerts at Dubrovnik's 16th century St Rozario church • **SmartFlyer's** Michael Holtz wants even more industry friends sharing passion – it's taking amazing care of clients that keeps this business growing • For Karim Chaouane, **GM Muse Hotel de Luxe**, Ramatuelle, customer-care means anything, anytime (including poolside meals, though the 1,500 sq. ft. Grace Suite has its own pool) • **Las Ventanas'** 22,300 sq. ft. Ty Warner Mansion has a ground-level infinity pool plus a glass-base rooftop lap-pool above a bathroom: GM Frédéric Vidal • **Cheval Blanc Randheli's** private island 10,000 sq. ft. Owner's Villa (four bedrooms), has a 70ft pool - fly in on the resort-liveried Twin Otter). GM Renato Chizzola • Milan's **Principe di Savoia**, GM Ezio Indiani, who turned yachting host Monday night, has complimentary shuttles to Monte Napoleone retail - three-bedroom Presidential Suite, own pool, spa, elevator.

Greek villas? **Concierge Club**, owner Katerina Souha Mousbeh, has stunning range, include one Aristotle Onassis gave to his bride, Jackie K • India villas? **Taj's** Andaman resort opens next month (designed by co-owner Pramod Ranjan, 75 local-Jarawa villas, shaped like wok-lid cross-sections, spa, two restaurants and, unheard of for the Andaman Islands, its own satellite-internet – free Andaman entry permit when you fly into Port Blair, then seaplane-ferry to Havelock): Taj's Chinmai Sharma left new CEO, Puneet Chhatwal at home • Xavier Destribats left his Cuba home to explain **Grand Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana**, MD, opened June – unusually for Havana, world-class WiFi (cigar lounge, rooftop spa and pool): arrive by 1960 Cadillac or Chrysler in a favourite colour • Kempinski's 2018 openings include **Kempinski Hotel Muscat** (310 rooms, GM Christian Wiegandt); **Emerald Palace Kempinski Palm Jumeirah Dubai** (389 rooms, MD Rudy Oretti); **The Heritage Hotel Kempinski Yangon** (219 rooms, GM Ed Brea), and **Kempinski Nusa Dua Bali** (475 rooms, GM Vincent Guironnet).

**Belmond's** Peru Person, Laurent Carasset, oversees two trains, the day-trip **Hiram Bingham**, Cusco-Aguas Calientes (Machu Picchu - overnight at **Belmond Sanctuary Lodge**) and absolutely memorable three-day **Andean Explorer**, Cusco-Arequipa, with a day on Lake Titicaca enroute (service+food = **Belmond Monasterio**) • In Ireland, **Belmond Hibernian** offers a rail tour of the Emerald Isle • **Red Carnation's Ashford Castle**, Co Mayo, GM Niall Rochford, has Harry Potter days, plus all-time fishing, hiking (its Hideaway Cottage's honeymoon-ideal) • Co Clare's **Dromoland Castle**, GM Mark Nolan, also offers fishing, plus paddle-boarding, archery, clay pigeon shooting, equestrian • There's horseback riding galore at Emirates-owned **One&Only Wolgan Valley** (GM James Wyndham) – well worth the three-hour drive from Sydney, and Vilebrequin-free as all villas' 22-foot pools are inside, private • At Istanbul's **Ciragan Palace Kempinski's** year-round heated outdoor pool do 100-ft lengths watching the Bosphorus' varied shipping a few yards away: GM Ralph Radtke • In Berlin, **Adlon Kempinski's** intimate indoor pool's classically themed – tweaked lobby, the elephant-themed black Asian Tower fortunately remaining (try Adlon vodka, distiller Our Berlin), GM Matthias Al-Amiry • In Athens, **Grande Bretagne** has indoor and, rooftop, outdoor pools - the latter, like the adjacent glassed-in, Acropolis-view Roof Garden, is popular day-evening long (the 4,600 sq. ft. Royal Suite, overlooking Parliament, Syntagma, has a wine cellar, 16-seat dining). GM Tim Ananiadis • Xavier Rugeroni, GM **Fairmont Monte Carlo**, cantilevered over the Mediterranean, offers Nobu dining and, during Grand Prix, 1-Oak clubbing next to the rooftop pool • The massive historic indoor pool at Victoria BC's re-imagined **Fairmont Empress**, GM Indu Brar, remains, together with afternoon tea, a big draw – magnificent new first-floor Club lounge, with firepit outside terrace • Vancouver's **Fairmont Pacific Rim**, new GM Jens Moesker, has firepits alongside its outdoor pool: TED participants and others know to get access to the 24/7 20th floor club.

**Visit Berlin** says State Opera's back in business in its original Unter den Linden home; Stephanie Hanssen offers make-your-own-perfume experiences at **Frau Tonis Parfum**. Also, a GQ Bar officially opens December 13th at designer Patrick Hellmann's **Schlosshotel**, once Ritz-Carlton • **Oetker Collection** CEO Frank Marrenbach starts Oetker Academy to raise standards yet higher: his base, **Brenners Park**, a few minutes' walk from Baden-Baden's high-culture town centre, has a super-comprehensive Villa Stephanie wellness menu, plus Germany's best makeup artists, Horst Kirchberger, and outsourced medi-spa (stay in a Villa bedrooms, or the bullet-proof Presidential Suite) – next month Brenners Park replaces Michelin with casual dining for locals, to which of course hotel guests are invited • Oetker-managed **The Lanesborough**, MD Geoffrey Gelardi, has opened its Club & Spa, with Bodyism, and such other names as Anastasia, Galvin, Ila and La Prairie • Also Oetker, Antigua's **Jumby Bay**, MD Andrew Hedley, open for business - St Bart's **Eden Rock** re-opens late 2018.

**Lungarno hotels**, CEO Valeriano Antonioni, are Ferragamo-owned – stay at **Portrait Suites**, above that Rome store, and there are irresistible discounts (two-floor suite 651's particularly divine, but all suites are Michele Bonan, with framed shoe horns, and access to the gorgeous rooftop restaurant-bar, for wake-up espresso overlooking the Spanish Steps) • The Dogus Group's new **Mytha Hotel Anthology** brand, says Chief Commercial Officer Ermanno Zanini, are inspired by Mediterranean lifestyle spirit. Dogus also owns 50% of the venerable **Athens Hilton** (GM Bart van de Winkel hints the hotel'll be upgraded into a more-luxury product, with substantially fewer rooms) • **Jumeirah** COO Marc Dardenne tells *Skift* he's adding a lifestyle brand (no, not twice-aborted Venu).

**Aman** COO Roland Fase says look out for Costa Rica, Kyoto, and up to five additional urban hotels • **Amandari**, GM Jann Hess, in Ubud's Kedewatan village, was the first custom-build Aman – 95% of its 210 team members have been here since 1989 • **Les Sources de Caudalie** sits on 170 acres of beautifully tended Bordeaux vineyard, and its spa uses vine products – MD Jérôme

Cathiard (who generously gave his Ch Smith Haut Lafitte for the really good Tout'France party, Monday, Majestic) suggests a five-senses vineyard walk, Nathalie Decosters sculptures enroute; an astronomy workshop or Michelin cooking lessons • Michelins are a big draw for gourmet Asians: among newly-accoladed restaurants are RECH by Alain Ducasse, **InterContinental Hong Kong**; La Baie, **Ritz-Carlton Osaka**, and Tempura Mizuki, **Ritz-Carlton Kyoto** • **Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong** adds, from April, Sushi Saito • At **Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc**, GM Philippe Perd, don't miss sunset Dom Pérignon and sashimi in the over-water Champagne Lounge (and reserve one of Antibes' coveted beach cabanas) • At **Pine Cliffs Resort**, GM Thomas Schoen, it's Algarve sunsets at cliff-top cocktail hour – total 72 acres, several hotels (take a two-room Ocean Suite, Luxury Collection Pine Cliffs Hotel) and an elevator, or 80 wood stairs, down the orange cliff-face to the boardwalk and beach • Amsterdam's **Hotel De L'Europe**, GM Tom Krooswijk, suggests Ruinart sunset canal-cruising in the 1896 Hilda • **Inn at Perry Cabin**, MD Michael Hoffmann, offers Sunday sunset Port tonging, and much more – this white Maryland homestead, with tweed-and-empathy Alexandra Champalimaud interiors, is fresh air, relaxation, soft sunrises and botanical spa treatments. From April, there's re-configured Pete Dye golf, now with mini-hills and fish-filled lakes, and, from 2019, the alternative of staying right at water's edge, in do-it-yourself four-bedroom villas • **Finca Cortesin Hotel, Spa & Golf**, near Malaga, should add 'and Beach' to its name: a ten-minute shuttle goes to a stunning Nikki Beach-type facility, infinity pool, futuristic deck, glass-walled fresh-produce dining, imported sand and the blue Mediterranean (back up at base, one pool is adults only, and you revel in gorgeous gardens, golf, dining and the spa). GM Rene Zimmer • Horticulture-trained Martijn van Wagenberg, MD **Guanahani**, makes sure only indigenous plants are allowed on the 18.5-acre St Barth's estate.

Ennismore's **Gleneagles**, GM Bernard Murphy, still has 232 rooms, three championship golf courses, two Michelin stars and one working rail station – new are a glamorous American Bar, Aughterarder 70 for craft beers, a Parisian-style bistro, The Little Glen & The Den for kids' play (plus tree-climbing and zip-wiring) and Bob & Cloche, to beautify adults • Youngsters adore Oman's **Anantara Al Jabal al Akhdar**, GM Darren Darwin, 6,000 ft up in barren mountains: donkey rides and peer-run activity games for teenagers are really impressive – a cantilevered, glass-walled 'look-out' also provides a near-unique sky-high selfie spot • Another world-best selfie contender, at **Koh Samui W Escape**, has a five-floor-high, 90-foot decorative pool, with seating pods, cantilevered over surrounding countryside (GM Daniel Simon's \$20 entry fee's redeemable for F&B) • And what about the 13th-floor rooftop bar-restaurant atop the absolutely opulent, gorgeous, red-carpet luxury **Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills**, food by Jean-Georges Vongerichten? All 170 rooms have balconies, the 3,300 sq. ft. Presidential Suite's terrace is 1,500 sq. ft., with grand piano and unlimited drive-yourself Aston Martin • **Corinthia London**, GM Thomas Kochs, was built 1865 for the founder of the annual London-Brighton car race: today, best rooms include the 4,800 sq. ft. duplex Lady Hamilton Suite, looking directly at Nelson's column-top Trafalgar Square statue: the significant spa is ESPA • **Trump International Washington DC**, MD Mickael Damelincourt, has a Natura Bissé spa by Ivanka Trump – hundreds of touchpoints in the 1910-vintage Old Post Office conversion include the nine-floor open atrium, with original metal struts, opulent rooms (corner suites like #535 have private gyms, oriel nooks with love-seats, and VIPs may be welcomed by Donald Jr or Eric) – food's David Burke • **InterContinental London**'s creative boss, Alvaro Rey, worked tirelessly to bring in Mexico's charismatic Martha Ortiz (coupled with David Collins design, the resulting **Ella Cantina**'s a must-try, food+drink served by Frida Kahlo lookalikes) • **SBM**, now under CEO Didier Boidin, offers a range of dining, including newly-renovated Louis XV – Alain Ducasse at **Hôtel de Paris**, and, also Michelin-starred, Elsa, Monaco's first 100% organic and Ecocert-certified restaurant • Mediterranean-set **David InterContinental Tel Aviv**, GM David Cohen, shows kosher can be sensational – a recent Colorfood Festival included yellow seabass, coconut curry sauce, grilled pineapple, yellow carrot and saffron (and Daniel Corey, **InterContinental San Francisco Downtown**, guest-chefs January) •

Newcomer to ILTM Seabourn, President Rick Meadows, expecting its fifth ship May • Regent Seven Seas Cruises, led by President/CEO Jason Montague, announces, after assessing over 14,000 suggestions from travel advisors and customers, its new ship, launching early 2020, will be Seven Seas Splendor (as always, the 750-suite ship comes with all-inclusive that includes a range of land excursions, great dining and more) • Francesco Galli Zugaro's all-inclusive Aqua Expeditions offers luxury suites on rivers (the ideal way to explore Amazonia and the Mekong, says his colleague, Milly Alva Haimberger – ask her for such themed cruises as photography with Leica instructor Francisco Marin, wellness with Lululemon ambassador Alex Salihin, sustainability with Jean-Michel Cousteau and culinary specials) • Ritz-Carlton's yachts, launching 2019, will not be all-inclusive – 298 passengers Sales/Marketing boss Angela Composto • Want to rent a boat? Try Glyfada-based Riginos Yachts, with over 30 years' experience • Want to rent a villa? On Mykonos, Elite Estates' CEO/MD Odysseus Demetriades has everything from two up to 17 bedrooms • Exceptional Stays, founded by President Christina Casa, has over 150 properties, primarily in Telluride CO, and Mexico, Spain and Morocco •

There's marine biology and birding among Muscat's Ritz-Carlton Al Bustan experiences – look for Indian rollers, mynah birds, ospreys and parakeets • Adelita may welcome guests to Belmond Maroma, GM Federico Echaiz (she's a red parrot who lives in the forested forecourt, before reception) – sometimes, too, the gorgeous beach is incubating baby turtles, which guests release into the Atlantic. Some main-floor casitas, say #65, have beach-set plunge pools • Dubai's Burj Al Arab makes you feel you have arrived – as if at Buckingham Palace or the White House. Here, abbayah-clad ladies refresh your hands in rose water, escort you up escalators past fountain-ballets: Royal Suite #2502 is rainbow-coloured, up 21 presidential stairs to the two bedrooms, and salons (two-floor glass walls offer sweeping Dubai and Gulf views) • Arrive at Amsterdam's Conservatorium, GM Roy Tomassen, and you're in Piero Lissoni's four-floor-high glass box, surrounded by 1901 classicism - Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Robbie Williams and others obviously don't hang out here, in the lobby, bar, brasserie, but in such bedrooms as #804, the two-floor rooftop-terrace Penthouse Suite • The Beckhams, Gordon Ramsay and Naomi Campbell arrive, like everyone, at Amilla Fushi by boat: the Baa Atoll resort, under CEO Mark Hehir, includes five treehouse suites, Bodyism fitness, Fish N Chips, and fun • Dolder Grand (MD Mark Jacob), high above Zurich, offers arrivals clean alpine air paired with perfect old and new (Foster) architecture, a world-class spa, hundreds of unique 20-21st century art works, and food that is seriously fun • Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo arrivals may head straight to great retail, including pop-up 'igloos', five minutes away. GM Serge Ethuin offers Robuchon's Japanese (Yoshi, one star) and French (Monte-Carlo Restaurant, two-star).

What a splendid ILTM Official Party last night. There's just one more day to go, see you tomorrow folks!