

Gostelow Report Live

SPECIAL REPORT

Cannes, December 4th, 2018

Today, tomorrow and Thursday, **Gostelow Report Live** – at the request of **Reed Travel Exhibitions**, organiser of ILTM - gives inside stories on the personalities and happenings here at the 17th ILTM in Cannes • This is the biggest ILTM event ever – 1,880 exhibitors, from 101 countries (an 8.5% increase over 2017). Add to this 1,816 hosted buyers from 80 countries (a 12% increase over last year, and 752 of these buyers are first-timers to this ILTM and, responding to exhibitor feedback there are 30% more buyers from Italy, 20% more buyers from the UK, 19% more from Latin America, 12% more from Switzerland, and 10% more from North America). The number of computer-generated one-to-one meetings is just over 70,000, which is 8.5% up on 2017. In addition there are 200 accredited VIP media, which means there are over 5,000 people at the show.

Returning delegates arrive in the area earlier every year, it seems – well, why not head for this gorgeous Riviera weather? Keen-to-get here enthusiasts have been checking out Nice's **Le Negresco**, GM Pierre Bord (new chef Virginie Basselot MOF is wowing French critics with seabass and oyster tartare topped with Loire Valley caviar: if you want one of the most unusual bedrooms ever, try #422, sea-facing, Jean-Paul Gaultier-themed). Also ahead of ILTM, Antoine Chauvin, fourth generation owner of SLH-member **Belles Rives, Juan-les-Pins** – former villa of F Scott Fitzgerald, who wrote *Tender Is The Night* here – must be exhausted after hosting culture enthusiasts from New York to Jakarta (best suite, Zelda, and take hearty walks along the sea-front Bvd du Maréchal Juin) • **Small Luxury Hotels of the World** (SLH) saw its partnership with World of Hyatt go live last week: Filip Boyen (now CEO *Forbes Travel Guide*, formerly CEO SLH) who with **Hyatt's** Mark Hoplamazian set the deal in motion, is ecstatic that in the first 24 hours the 50 SLH hotels already locked-in together accrued a total of £100,000 worth of business, money rather than redemptions, from World of Hyatt members (oh the power of collaboration, he says).

Julien Paccaud inspired us all at yesterday's Forum: today and tomorrow he's available for posture advice (at **The Retreat, E111**, which also, through Thursday, has a multisensory retreat lounge • This is **ILTM's Year of Health and Wellness**. Turn to **Castello Dal Pozzo**, whose owners, Guendalina and Aimone Dal Pozzo d'Annone, are passionate triathletes and of course there's a bike storage room, and a big swimming pool: the 45-room resorts overlooks Lake Maggiore • There are two significant indoor pools and a serious gym at **Evok Hotel's** just-opened 59-room **Brach Paris**, designed by Philippe Starck – after your workout, relax with pastries by Yann Brys MOF. Hotel GM Emmanuel Sauvage. (In 2019, Evok Hotels opens **La Cour des Vosges, Paris**, with 12 letting apartments, and the 42-room Sinner Hotel (designer Tristan Auer), in le Marais) • Think wellness – and **Six Senses** springs to mind. At the just-opened **Six Senses Krabey Island**, GM Alastair Anderson, all 40 villas have pools (the 12-hectare Cambodian island is a 15-minute boat ride from the mainland) • Gordon Oldham, owner of **The Pavilions Hotels and Resorts**, launched the 16-villa **REVĪVŌ Wellness Resort, Bali**, this March – four-post beds, sunken tubs and private outdoor dining. Coming up next year are Indonesia-based **REVĪVŌ Wellness Cruises**, three-to-six passengers, sailing to Komodo, Raja Ampat, Banda Sea, and Alor Island (onboard these Diving & Mind Training Retreats are bespoke diving, yoga, meditation, breathing and fitness classes, plus spa treatments): also scheduled for next year are two **REVĪVŌ Wellness Castles**, a 16-room Alella and an 18-room Fiac, with a Niseko **REVĪVŌ Wellness Spa** planned for 2020 • At **Conrad Seoul**, GM Mark Meaney, Korean flower tea really refreshes-revives, what you will – immerse dried blossoms in boiling water, strain, pour into exquisite Miranda Kerr-for-Royal-Albert porcelain (the hotel, looking over the Han River, is above a four-floor mall, Seoul's best) • **Hanjin Travel**, sibling to Korean Airlines, offers three-night medical tours, including full health checks.

Drive around Italy, self-drive or chauffeured, in a Rolls Royce Silver Wraith 1956 or a 2018 Lamborghini Aventador S Roadster - **100 all'ora**, CEO Andrea Benedetti, can arrange it, and hotels and private museum visits • The whole world loves Italy – and we thank it for sponsoring last night's post-Forum reception • Welcome to first-time exhibitors, Alessandro and Giacomo Cavazza, 30-ish brothers who organize events, unique experiences, stays and tailor-made tours in the most beautiful and often less accessible castles, palaces, villas and gardens – and, at the same time, says architect Alessandro, their Rome-based initiative, **Beyond The Gates**, helps owners of the 130-plus rare properties in this unique portfolio maintain their heritage, which is in danger (Beyond The Gates started as a result of the Cavazzas restoring their own historic houses) • Lake Como's **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**, CEO Valentina De Santis, is always coming up with something new. Two years ago it added management of the 17th century **Villa Sola Cabiati**, and now, this October, it added the stunning **Villa Passalacqua** – 12 rooms, four of which are in a detached villa, 11 working fountains, a pool, lakefront access and a 200-year old greenhouse (below are catacombs and tunnels) • Also in the area, the Contreras family's **Il Sereno Lago di Como** is scouting for new locations in Italy and France: company GM Samy Ghachem, meanwhile, commutes across the Atlantic to St Barth's where **Le Sereno** re-opens December 15th – the 700 sq m Villa Le Sereno has six bathrooms, four bedrooms, two kitchens and one gorgeous private pool and garden.

Eric Trump says he's disrupting golf – for him, it is no longer for elders, but all ages. **Trump Turnberry**, Scotland, shows how the game can be fun: he's turned the estate's iconic 1873-vintage lighthouse into a two-bedroom Lighthouse Suite, and also, below, put in a fish and chip outlet that's so popular the hotel had to build an additional carpark. As owner's representative and development director of Trump Hotels, Eric Trump is waiting, by necessity, until he can roll out more international hotels (he does also have the 19-room **MacLeod House & Lodge**, near Aberdeen). He concentrates, for the meantime, in taking luxury levels even higher at his US properties. **Trump Chicago**, MD Gabriel Constantin; **Trump New York**, MD Prince Sanders, and **Trump Washington DC**, MD Mickael Damelin-court, are all here: in DC, a unique conversion of the 1899 Old Post Office Building, awe-inspiring moments are looking up at the nine-floor open atrium, and bedrooms with six-metre ceilings and lots of gilding balanced by rich royal blue velvets and, downstairs, David Burke food, and Ivanka Trump spa • **Sofitel Santa Clara, Cartagena**, GM Richard Launay, is a conversion of the 17th century Santa Clara of Assisi convent, still with cloisters, now set with only indigenous foliage: Botero Suite, #316, is designed by the sculptor's daughter Lina Botero • In Tel Aviv, **The Jaffa, Luxury Collection**, opened this August as a conversion of the 1879 Sisters of St Joseph convent, later the French hospital – the de-sanctified chapel, today an events space, has paintings of saints replaced by large photographs of actors who have played ecclesiastical greats, Montgomery Clift, Richard Burton, Bing Crosby, Spencer Tracy, Anthony Quinn and Frank Sinatra - in the 120-room hotel's lobby, which has relics of a mediaeval wall, New York owner Abe Rosen has hung a couple of his favourite Damien Hirsts • **Belmond's** two Cusco properties, led by MD Arturo Schwarz, are also religious conversions. **Monasterio del Cusco**, with original cloisters and a still-working art-filled church, dates back to 1592 – ask for a room with oxygen: a few metres away, all rooms at the more-edgy **Palacio Nazarenas** have oxygen (the 85 sq m Nazarenas Suite #200, was home of the Abbess – it has a corner Oriel for overlooking the square) • Next Monday, December

10th, is re-opening of **Belmond La Samanna**, St-Martin; December 15th is re-opening of **Anguilla's Belmond Cap Juluca** and December 17th December sees the re-opening of **Belmond Cadogan London**: the 54 rooms are GA designed, and Adam Handling, known for his Frog restaurants in London and his super-healthy Black and White Press fresh juices, oversees all food (despite not then having a UK hotel, only trains, Belmond was last Wednesday deemed Walpole Club's 'best UK luxury brand'). In Cape Town, **Belmond Mount Nelson**, GM/RVP Xavier Lablaude, painted pink 11/11/1918 for the end of WW1, launched a year-long celebration of its distinctive colouring with a Veuve Clicquot Rosé garden party 10 November – year-long special events include pink-hued afternoon teas, massages and cocktails, plus a 40-artist show this coming April, with all proceeds to Breast Cancer Association.

Partly thanks to charismatic networking-MD Duncan Palmer, **The Murray, Hong Kong – a Niccolo Hotel** sees praise pouring in for the clever conversion of this historic 1969-vintage heritage building, its 26th floor indoor-out Popinjays restaurant-lounge, with unusually-creative mixologists, a nutritionalist who is wellness director: of its 336 rooms, pride is the 225 sq m Murray Suite, #2301, with a glass-walled Ciclotte work-out area – and stunning views down to Victoria Harbour • Ulf Bremer has returned to Hong Kong as GM **Island Shangri-La** – he's now seeing the SAR from a different viewpoint as, until 2016, he was GM Kowloon Shangri-La, looking across to the Island • Claus Pedersen, GM **InterContinental Hong Kong**, is justifiably proud of his new-look Yan Toh Heen – the Henry Leung re-design of this Michelin three-star restaurant is a jewel (look across the harbour to the nightly 8pm illuminations on Central): the two-Michelin restaurant will fortunately stay open when the hotel closes early 2020 for its complete rebuild, to emerge as The Regent Hong Kong. The hotel hosted the Asia launch of Nobu Matsuhisa's World of Nobu book on November 21st • **Nobu Hotels**, incidentally, continue to expand. **Nobu Ibiza Bay (SLH)**, with a Six Senses spa, has a stunning two-floor Presidential Suite with rooftop plunge pool – expect the forthcoming 134-key **Nobu Riyadh** similarly to attract A-list globalists, though with different wow factors.

Champagne abounds at this year's ILTM. Exhibitor **Dom Pérignon** invites you to visit. **Le Royal Champagne Hotel and Spa**, on the **Relais** stand: GM Vincent Parinaud, 49 rooms designed by Sybille de Margerie (who also did **Mandarin Oriental Paris**) - try the 170 sq m Josephine Suite • **Ritz-Carlton Istanbul**, GM Nicolas Kipper, unveils its 14th floor, 258 sq m Ritz-Carlton Suite next month (all-wall windows looking down across the Bosphorus, designers Hakan Yürüoğlu and Patricia Pina): all 243 rooms have been renovated to the Ottoman Empire and the rich culture of Istanbul - think gold and copper hues, and luxurious velvet and silk headboards) • Susanne Hatje, GM **Mandarin Oriental New York**, says her HOK-designed one- and two-bedroom Central Park View Suites, with all-wall windows, are ideal if travelling with up to three young kids: wake up to unbelievable sunrise views over Central Park, where later your children might want to play, or skate in winter (and adults, after dark, make the most of the hotel's hidden-secret The Office speakeasy, run by Chicago's trend-setting Alinea Group) – there are always hotel staff on duty who speak Cantonese-Mandarin, Japanese and Spanish • **The Peninsula Chicago**, GM/RVP Maria Zec, has one of the most stylish skybars in the whole of the Americas – thanks to designer Yabu Pushelberg, air-space above the ballroom is now an indoor-outdoor lounge, with firepits (and the mixologists' menu is a work of art). 2019 is the 5th year that the hotel is official sponsor for contemporary art, EXPO Chicago, September 19-22, 2019 (some pieces will move to the hotel). The hotel has helicopter experiences, and winter-time sky-rink ice-skating, benefiting local charities; little-ones' baking classes, overnight stays with teepees and s'mores • Oman's **Anantara Al Jabal al Akhdar**, 2,000 metres up atop a barren, ultra-rugged mountain near Nizwa, has camel rides, a superb kids-teens programme, cook classes, rock climbing – and a cantilevered-glass platform with breath-taking views (new GM Dagmar Symes) • At **Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore**, GM Peter Mainquy, front-facing rooms look down at Marina Bay, and make sure you have entry to the outstanding 32nd floor Club Lounge, with live kitchen for cook-to-order – and schedule time to explore some of the hotel's renowned 4,200-item art works, including such greats as Calder, Chihuly and Stella • Singapore's iconic **Raffles** is now set to re-open August 2019 (Alexandra Champalimaud interiors).

Tonight's ILTM VOGA Power Hour – actually 90 minutes, from 6 p.m., at Gare Maritime, right next to the Palais, and then there are so many parties Cannes promises to be film festival+14th July, all in one – hey girls, aren't you pleased you left Manolos at home in favour of Golden Goose sneakers?

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