

CHANINTR LIVING

Holiday 2019



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Fake news aside, they say that 70-90% of all information we receive today, particularly through social media and including our own thoughts, are false. I am sure all of us have experienced the disappointment that comes from trying things we see on Instagram or following the so many self-proclaimed 'food experts' we are bombarded by every minute. It makes one wonder how to get by with so little that is real and truly good.

Being selective and focusing on the one out of ten choices is our modus operandi. Finding things that not only look good but also are of great quality is getting more and more challenging by the day. It is a pursuit that we hold dear. Beyond that it really is a matter of personal preference.

Although they may not be everyone's taste, in this special issue we have pulled together some 'real' places that we feel represent a combination of good design and quality. They are authentic to their place, story and the people who built them. They are the personal favorites of some of our closest designers like Barbary Barry, or ones they have designed themselves like Albano Daminato and Thomas Pheasant.

As we approach the close of this year, we wish you and your families all that is good and real in living well this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at CHANINTR!

Chanintr

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CHANINTR LIVING EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.

04 - 07 HILLTOP HAVEN
08 - 10 VILLA FELTRINELLI
11 - 13 THE CAPITAL'S CROWN
14 - 15 THE BOWERY ON BOWERY
16 - 19 PERFECT RYOKAN
20 - 21 CLASSY. COOL. COSTES.
22 - 23 WHEN IN ROME
24 - 26 CRUISE CONTROL
28 - 29 FIRST CLASS DESIGNS
30 - 31 PISELLINO PERFETTO
32 - 33 MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
34 CHANINTR LIVING SUGGESTS

pp503 | The Round Chair
Designed by Hans J. Wegner, 1950

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HILLTOP HAVEN

VILLA PEDUZZI,
LAKE COMO, ITALY

If your dream holiday involves embracing your inner Sophia Loren then this stylish northern Italian villa is designed to tick all of your boxes. Perched high on a wooded hilltop on the edge of a quiet village, **Villa Peduzzi** commands jaw-dropping views over Lake Como and its surrounding mountain-scapes.

Constructed in 1909 by its namesake and patriarch Rocco Peduzzi, the villa served as a grand family home to the Peduzzis until it was left largely abandoned until sometime in the 1960s. Discovered in 2015 by its current owners, our studio was called upon to spearhead the ambitious overhaul of the villa interiors from conception stage to final key hand-over. Attention to detail and a strong geographic contextual solution to each project are hallmarks of our studio, and in Como, we were entrusted to reinstate a lost era of elegance. Initial work included recording the existing historical elements and a reorganization of the floorplans over four main living levels, plus additions to lower basement areas. Capacious marble-lined bathrooms were carefully inserted, directly connecting each one to the nine guest bedroom suites. Our attention then turned to the full furnishing and accessorizing of the villa, with much of the interiors fully custom designed, including the cabinetry, furniture, textiles and hardware.



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To reinstate historically correct interior finishes such as terrazzo or painted frescoes, specialized artisans were sought out. The sinuous pastel-hued ceiling designs synonymous with the architectural style of the period were fully restored where possible, their colours providing inspiration for our new finishes palette. With modern conveniences inserted as discretely as possible — be it lighting and audiovisual systems to thermal controls such as under-floor heating — the villa was fully completed for use again by September 2019. With spacious sleeping for 18 in the main building, Villa Peduzzi comfortably accommodates large extended families, intimate groups of friends, or simply a very secluded escape for two.

So how would Sophia while away her days here you ask? With its contrasting seasonal changes, Villa Peduzzi's mood alters with it – long summer days invite alfresco dining on the numerous terraces or basking in the sun by the infinity lap-pool overlooking the lake. Picture perfect snow-covered winter days draw you close to indoor or outdoor fireplaces, cosy daybeds and libraries, or by the grand piano with an appropriate aperitivo in hand. A gymnasium offering expansive views towards Como and steam shower facilities are located in the extended basement, a quality golf course nearby, and popular mountain-hiking or bicycle trails right beyond the villa gardens

and plans afoot for a private tennis court, your fitness requirements should be taken care of. Or simply lie about and master the art of dolce far niente.

Villa staff are on hand to pamper you and cater meals throughout the day, or if you'd prefer to take command of the pasta pots yourself (in true Ms. Loren style) there is a choice of well-appointed kitchens throughout the villa and pool pavilion to choose from.

If you feel compelled to explore life beyond the villa's gates, then the bordering village of Pigra offers very local trattoria and pizza stops, or the unique nearby cable car service whips you down in under a few minutes to the lakeside village of Argegno with its restaurants, a must-do gelateria and a chance to pick up any other essentials! The villa also moors its private boat in here, making it a convenient launch pad to tour the neighboring Lake Como villages, historic properties and islands.

Reached by car in under 90 minutes from Milan's Malpensa airport, this little slice of sophisticated Italy can be yours, for a while at least, by contacting the Villa directly at concierge@villapeduzzi.com.

– Albano Daminato



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PE TRINA TINSLEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLA FELTRINELLI

VILLA FELTRINELLI

VILLAFELTRINELLI.COM

Tall, black, wrought-iron gates slowly open.
The sound of gravel crunching softly as you wind ever so slowly
down the long curved drive.
Above enormous trees is a glimpse of the lake in the distance.

A well-appointed gentleman is standing in the courtyard and,
as the car comes to a stop, a young woman in a crisply starched
apron joins him. She presents you the tiniest and most
exquisite bouquet of flowers as she gently bows and says,
“Welcome.”

I'll never forget that first time.

They welcomed us as if we were the most special people in the
world, in that fragrant courtyard, to a private world of a time
gone by.

When entering the foyer you sense that you are entering a
home... a grand home from another era; an elegant era when
time was more fluid and languid, when everything was
polished and cherished and had its own personal story.

Everything seems effortless.
Your luggage disappears.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TELEIMPHCOLUK

You are beckoned through the main salon to the glimmering lake ahead. You move slowly eyeing and taking in all the special mementoes, books, flowers, paintings. The doors are open and there is a breeze as you step out and onto the most perfectly proportioned gallery, lined with taupe woven wicker and covered in pale terra cotta striped soft down cushions. The arches frame the view and the view is extraordinary: shimmering lake with soft and hazy mountains in the distance. You are presented an Aperol spritz made with a sugared rim and slice of orange made to perfection by Lucca, served with pride in his eyes as he serves it to you from a silver tray.

Time stands still.

You wander, out onto the lawn towards the lake.
 You wander, back through the main rooms, rich and layered, bursting with history and comfortable niches.
 You climb the grand, but not too grand, staircase lined in mellow carpeting.
 You arrive at your room with a heavy key in hand to open the even heavier carved wooden door.

Harmony abounds.
 Colors meld.
 Eyes roll upward to frescoed ceilings.

You notice that your bag has been unpacked, clothes hung on silk hangers in a wooden armoire. Your bed has been turned down and your shutters opened to the view. You move to the window and take in the wide panorama and the gardens below... your private perspective on heaven.

What is that smell?
 Is it from the ancient and enormous magnolia blossoming out your window, the one vying for height with the villa itself?
 You close your eyes as you inhale leaning on the balustrade.
 You swoon.

Slipping into an evening dress you slowly, very slowly, walk down the grand staircase, your hand caressing the bulbous and burnished bannister to dinner, which is served in the "prettiest" and most comfortable dining room in the world.

Are you dreaming?
 No... you are at the **Villa Feltrinelli**.

The second stay was not planned at all. Last minute plans and in the vicinity, we called knowing they were most likely fully booked but crossing our fingers.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VILLA FELTRINELLI



"Of course", they said, "Come straight away."
 We got lost and showed up quite late to those now familiar iron gates somewhere past 10 pm at night.
 The first thing they said was "Welcome home."
 I almost burst into tears.

Famished we asked if there was a chance we might get something to eat.
 "Of course, no problem at all." The kitchen would make us anything we wanted and prepare a table anywhere we wanted immediately while they prepared our room.

Settling into that comfy banquette, with a small fire crackling listening to the waves lap on the lake I truly did feel "at home."
 After dinner (and a good bottle of wine) I fell too tired into a sea of soft down and ironed linen.

Upon awaking in "Gelsomina" our own little apartment set away from the villa, the magic continued.
 After a bubble bath in the enormous and beautifully tiled bathroom I heard a golf cart on the gravel.
 I toweled off and into a big fluffy robe and opened the heavy wooden shutters to brilliant sun and gasped.

There on our little private terrace overlooking the green garden and sparkling lake three people were quietly setting up breakfast on a crisp linen tablecloth, fresh flowers and with all manor of delicious things.
 The magic continued...

Time here goes by both slowly and too quickly.
 A walk into the charming village of Garganano, a hike up on the property to the "limonaia," where potted lemon trees sit under glass against a sunbaked stone wall.

Time drinking in each appointment in the villa
 A nap
 Dinner this time, on the tented terrace, all stripes and fantasy.

The season was ending... the wooden boat was up, another reason to return next time, maybe at the opening of the season for a tour of Lake Garda but then it is really hard to leave the villa.

The Villa Feltrinelli is such stuff as dreams are made of.

- Barbara Barry

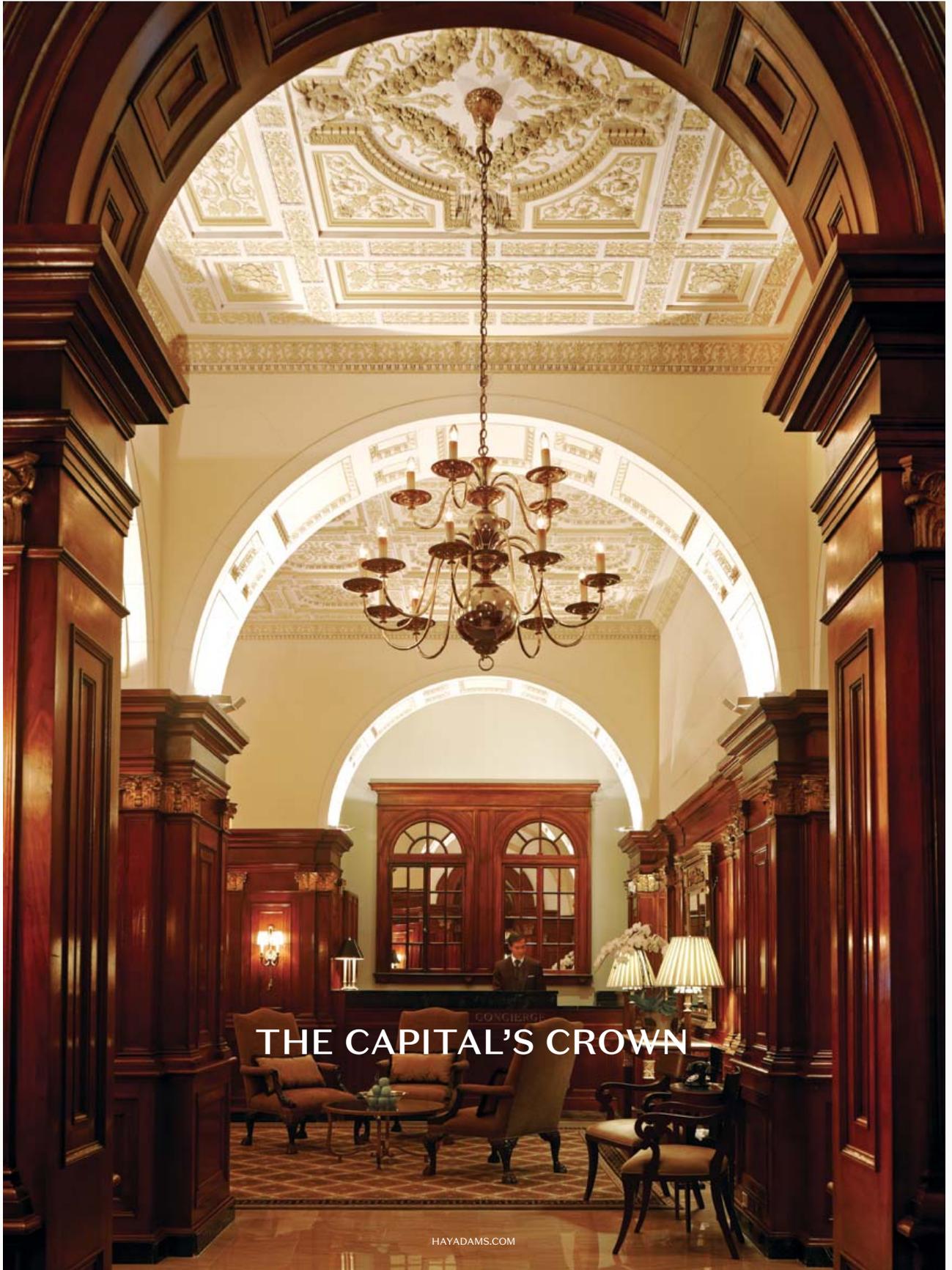


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAY-ADAMS

HAYADAMS.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HAY-ADAMS

Opened in 1928, just one block from the White House, **The Hay-Adams** has long been considered one of a Washington, DC's most valued hotels. Its doors have welcomed many U.S. presidents and countless heads of state over the past many decades. The beauty of its architecture sets it apart and it was the interior architectural details that quickly became my focus as I began the process of organizing the redecoration of this DC treasure. Given its proximity the White House, my inspiration came quickly... make the rooms and suites feel like guest rooms of the White House. Complete restoration of the lobby's wood paneling and ornate plaster ceilings helped me set the stage for a unique guest experience. I designed a custom toilet fabric

incorporating various DC landmarks to be used throughout each guest room. Canopy beds, revived plaster ceilings and a bright palette transformed each guest room, infusing not only a residential spirit but a unique connection to the city itself.

To add to the Washington experience, a local photographer, Zora DeVore, was hired to photograph various DC landmarks, museums and gardens. Printed in sepia tone, these images were carefully curated and used strategically throughout the hotel. I felt that these special elements and details would be crucial in giving each guest a special connection that could only happen inside the Hay-Adams.



The renovation also included The Lafayette, the dining room, located just off the main lobby and Off The Record which Forbes listed as one of “The World’s Best Hotel Bars”. My focus here was to maintain the spirit of the hotel and give both dining rooms a unique connection to DC.

What I feel has been the most interesting aspect of overseeing the renovation and redecoration has been the focus on creating interiors that are both timeless yet fresh. The current trend in hotel design has been focused on modern design and technology. How interesting to focus on a unique hotel experience based on history and location. This doesn’t mean that you can

ignore the demand for tech comforts like televisions, recharging stations and Wi-Fi. These appointments have been discreetly incorporated into each room and suite.

The success of this project has been celebrated in Architectural Digest and various publications. For me, the real success has been in the reaction of the guests who consider The Hay-Adams their home away from home.

- Thomas Pheasant



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNIE SCHELOTTER

THE BOWERY ON BOWERY

THEBOWERYHOTEL.COM

The **Bowery Hotel** in New York City, located in the East Village, is a reflection of the neighborhood it sits in. Though slightly rough around the edges, and not quite as polished as the neighboring West Village and Greenwich Village, the East Village has a distinctive personality and charm to boot. The area has long been associated with artists, punks, vagabonds and students, and served as the backdrop for *Rent*, a cult rock musical that focuses on a group of young struggling artists trying to make it big in the Empire State. This historical hub for counterculture exudes a hip, alternative vibe: gritty yet trendy, historic yet cool. In recent years, it has also become home to some of New York's finest dining and drinking spots.

Much like its zip code, The Bowery Hotel boasts an authentic, eclectic feel that can be hard to find in hotels. Since opening in 2007, the establishment has successfully maintained its quintessential "je ne sais quoi" in an ever-evolving urban jungle. From the outside, the facade of the hotel appears



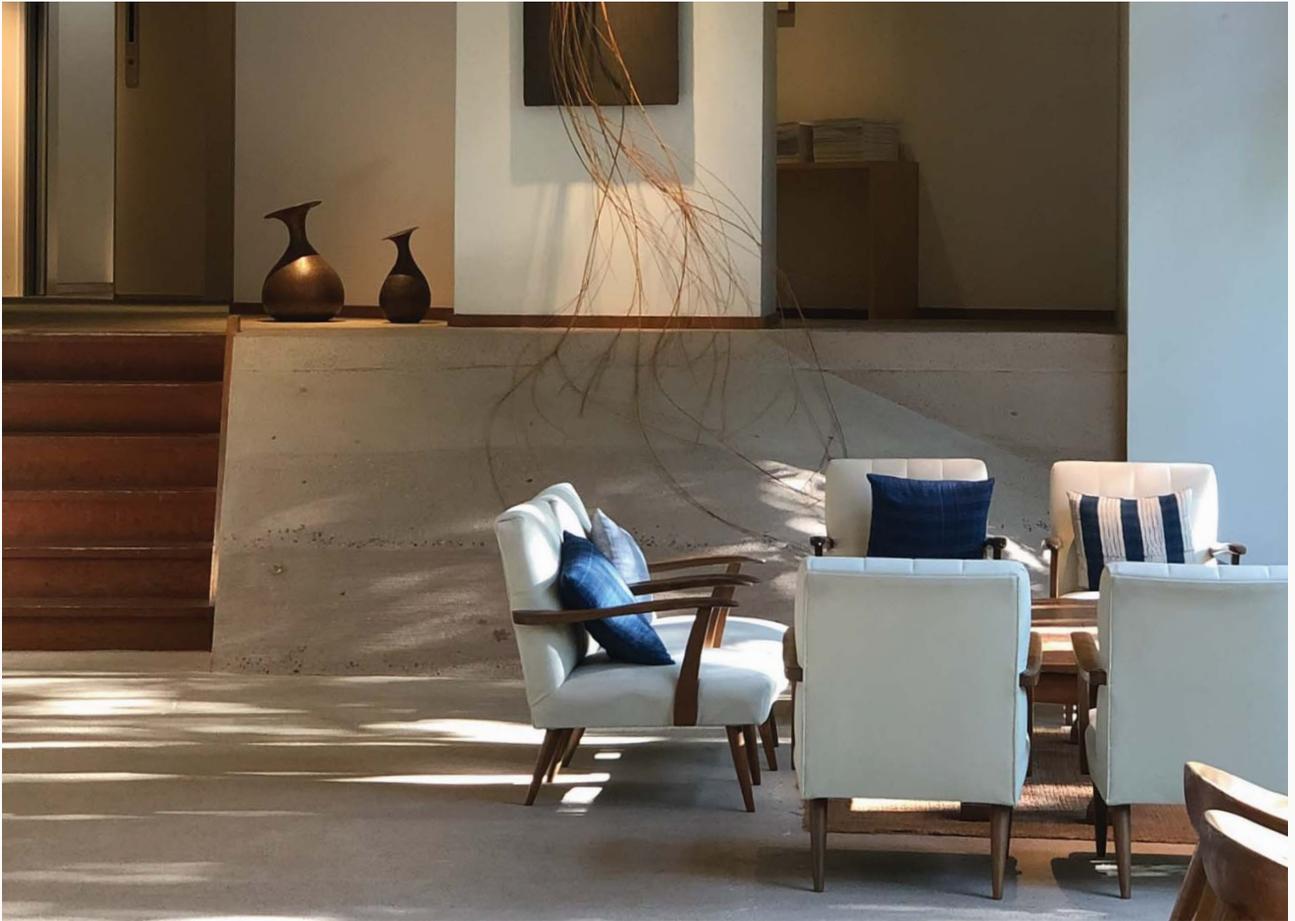
relatively new; however, beyond its industrial double doors lies an awe-inspiring homage to classic New York, with an Art Deco-inspired lobby bar that manages to be both grand and homey all at once. Upon entering The Bowery, it is easy to understand why it is many a celebrity's home away from home, with Selena Gomez singing about drinking whiskey neat on its highest floor.

Sean MacPherson and Eric Goode are the men behind The Bowery Hotel. Renowned hotelier and restaurateur MacPherson's ultimate goal is to imbue all his establishments with soulful aesthetic. "As the world becomes more corporatized, I'm more and more interested in individual places. I like places that are independently operated and designed so you can feel the heart and soul," MacPherson said in an interview with Haute Living. "I think if it's at least 'human' it has its own power. In corporate designs, something is lost. I may not be as good as some of the corporations in some ways — but hopefully there is some

moderate kind of alchemy or magic in it being closely connected to a person."

That "heart and soul" that MacPherson describes is exactly why we love The Bowery. We love its unique sensibility and retro glamor. We love MacPherson's subtle, tongue-in-cheek touches: old-school tasseled room keys, a board game collection inspired by Wes Anderson's *The Royal Tenenbaums*, red-brick terraces, Le Labo toiletries, cast-iron frames on its full-length windows, and furniture and design elements sourced from all over the world, including Waterworks bathroom fittings and fixtures. In the city that never sleeps, we find we sleep best at The Bowery Hotel.

- Uracha Chaiyapinunt



PERFECT RYOKAN

MUKAYU.COM

The selection of tableware in Japan is like an art form in and of itself. It says so much about the establishment but also of the people and culture of the beautiful country. We are usually as excited to see the containers used to serve the food as much as the food itself. The lacquer, the hand thrown earthenware, the blue and white, the crystal cups and bowls, the colorful patterned ceramics and wood containers all layer upon layer on the table like a beautiful watercolor. All very different but like plants in a forest, they become one perfect mural.

This very essence and approach has been applied to one of our very favorite places, **Beniya Mukayu**.

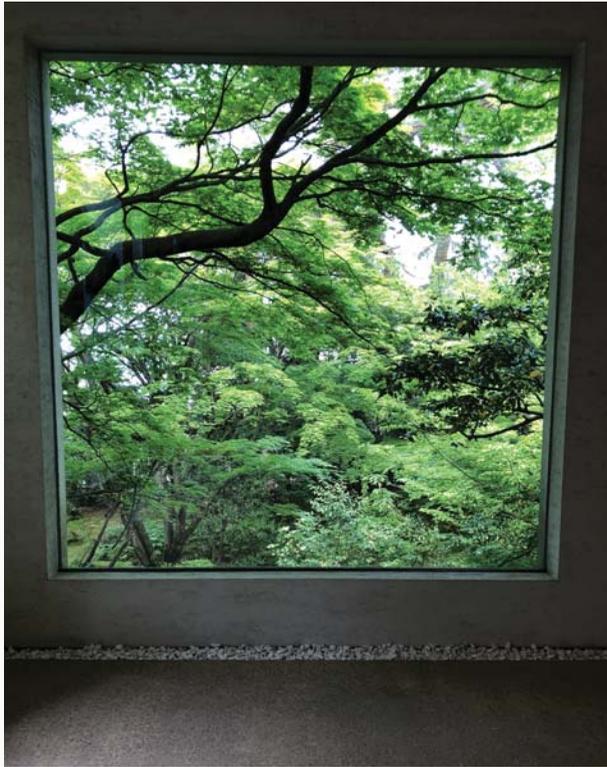
Our first trip was for my birthday in February 2015. I remember that there was a snow storm during the train ride from Osaka. The whole countryside was blanketed in white powder.

You get to Beniya Mukayu by bullet train from Nagoya, Osaka or Tokyo and head to a station called Kaga-onsen. You could also fly into Komatsu. From Tokyo, there is a new super First class

called the Gran Class (highly recommended) which takes you to Kanazawa, a lovely city worth visiting in itself. Kaga-onsen is only a few stops away.

When you arrive at Kaga-onsen, one of the impeccably dressed, mostly young staff who have studied at Glion, or, Lausanne (the Beniya gets a steady list of trainees from these schools), greet you in perfect English, load up your luggage in the van and drive you about 15 minutes to the Beniya. Kaga-onsen is a mostly flat town known for its hot springs with a few cute ceramic shops accessible from the hotel by a *Lost*-like sideways elevator since only Beniya Mukayu and a few other onsens sit perched up on a hill surrounded by trees.

The arrival experience at the hotel is as expected, superb. Notice is given in advance and an arrival party is waiting for you, making even the most weary feel special. The property is very discreet and you could not tell much from the parking lot but a small landscaped path and lantern lead you like a brushstroke into the lobby. You are immediately struck by the modernity



that is somehow so warm and inviting rather than cold and bleak. Your driver and the manager seat you comfortably in vintage armchairs and bring refreshments in the form of a drink and warm towel. I couldn't really concentrate on what they were saying the first time as I was busy trying to take it apart, the use of a rough off white pebble concrete wash floor, compartmentalized by lines of teak framed doors and picture frame windows and the occasional African wood stool or Chandigarh piece.

All the rooms have a private onsen on the balcony and overlook the property's Japanese garden which is definitely worth a stroll. With the tree top views and the constant perfect water temperature, you can't help but take multiple dips in the morning, afternoon and before bed. We usually stay in the Japanese rooms which are just a perfect story of bamboo flooring, shoji screens and futons with divine duvets. A small kitchenette with a ready pour over kettle for the coffee geeks out there, glasses wrapped in rice paper and of course a little onigiri snack in the bento box are thoughtful treats.

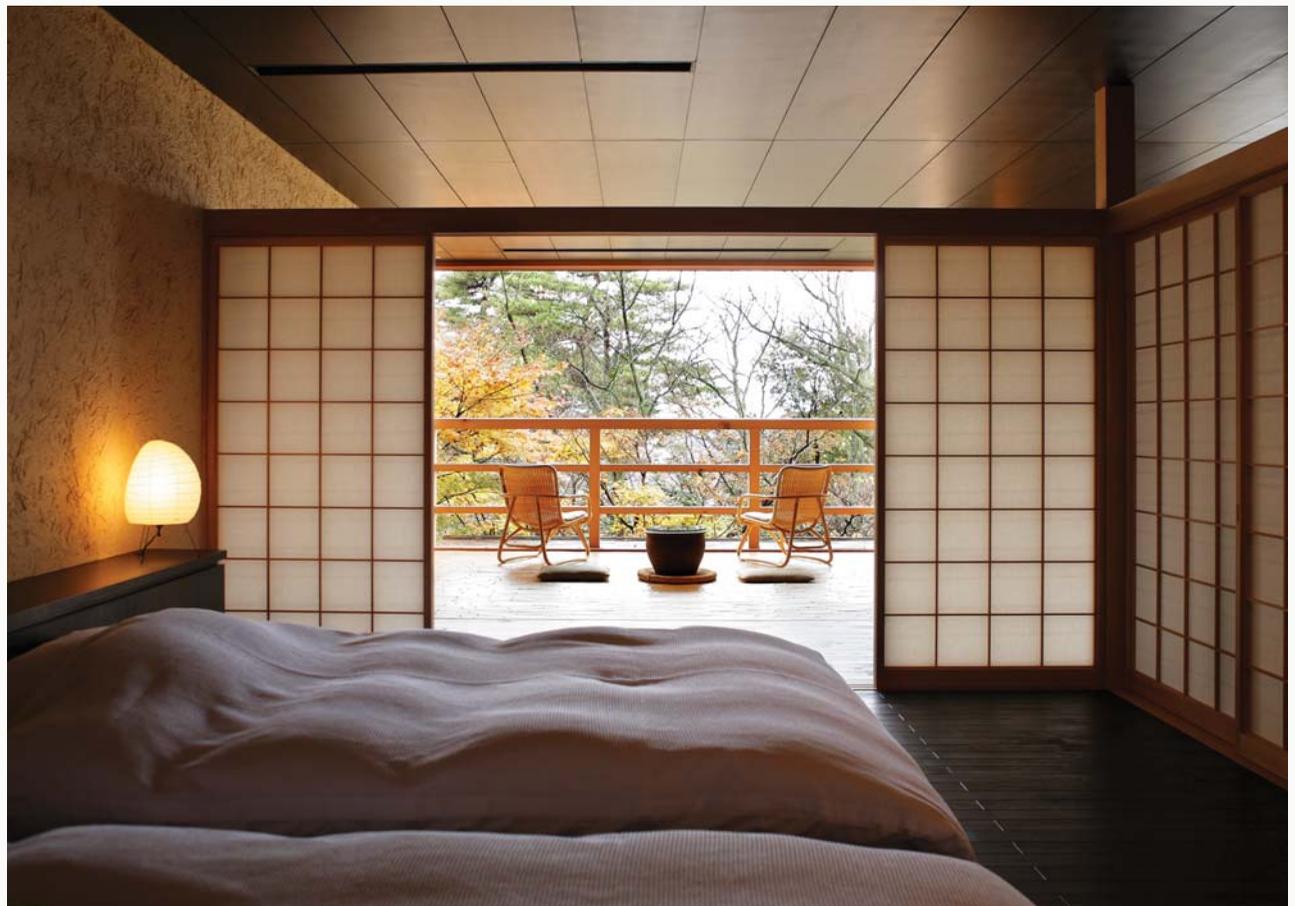


PHOTO COURTESY OF BENYA MIMAYU

The bathroom connects to the balcony and is also an example of meticulous detail in every amenity. The bath products are specially developed for the spa and for sale in the boutique. We always take home the body wash which has a beautiful natural scent of Japanese forests and excellent viscosity.

I would be completely remiss if I did not mention the amazing food, worth the stay in itself. Breakfast and dinner are included and always some of the best Japanese cuisine that doesn't strive for stars or long queues. All the menus are hand drawn daily and feature a multi-course meal with an excellent sake and wine list. As I said earlier, the quality of the establishment really shows even in the selection of a toothpick holder. Every single dish is unique but blends in so perfectly with one another and is made to look intent but natural and not to take away from the main event of taste, which is a celebration of the best local produce brought to their pinnacle of flavor.

Beniya Mukayu is a special place of quiet elegance and beauty, meant as a retreat to heal and restore for those who appreciate the art of living well.

- Chanintr Sirisant



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENIYA MUKAYU

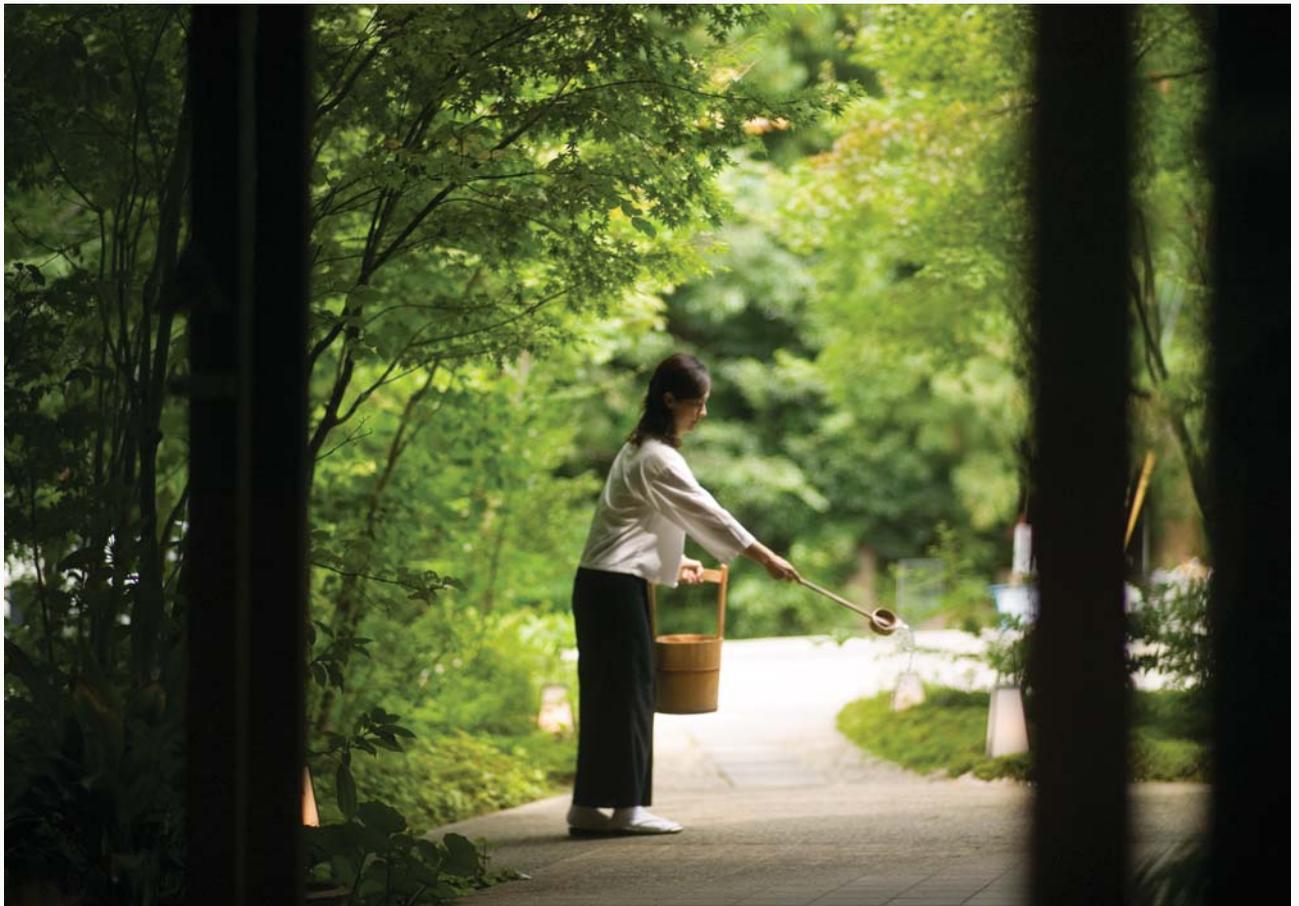
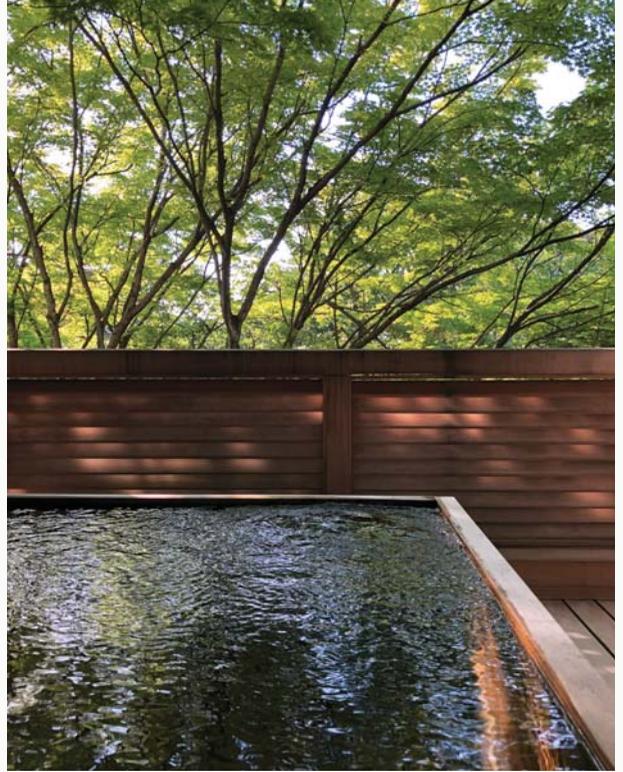


PHOTO COURTESY OF BENIYA MINAYU

CLASSY. COOL. COSTES.

HOTELCOSTES.COM

Just off the corner of Place Vendome and two blocks away from the Tuileries garden, **Hôtel Costes** is an authentic institution of sight and sound in the very heart of Paris.

What has become a fashion week destination, a chic bar with its famous ambient house music, and a star-studded courtyard restaurant dotted with white tables and chairs that looks up to the hotel's inner coral-colored façade, first opened its doors in 1995. The Costes brothers, Jean-Louis and Gilbert, commissioned the famous French architect and interior designer Jacques Garcia to fashion the 84-room hotel.

Inspired by the 16th and 17th century, Garcia showed an Empire-style décor and added a fun, modern twist. With its exterior conforming to Haussmann style, typical of the Paris-epicenter buildings, the jet-black entry discreetly leads to a sumptuous grandeur teeming with plush red. During the day, the coveted courtyard tables are perfect for alfresco brunching and lounging away the afternoon. Later in the evening, the light is adjusted very low. Lighting from the chandeliers and candles is feeble, its mood sensual, and the music higher tempo,



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOTEL COSTES

more upbeat than those played in the morning or afternoon tone (with live DJs from 9pm to midnight daily). One suddenly enters a sultry, mysteriously alluring scene with bordello-like corners and velvet-upholstered seats under stone columns.

Charmed by its couture cool and intimate vibes, many celebrities consider themselves regulars at this famed Parisian stay. Among them are Madonna, Rosie Huntington Whitely and Gigi Hadid. Kim Kardashian reportedly treated her family dinner at the property before her wedding day, and has flown over during pregnancy to indulge in a slice of the hotel's famous cheesecake.

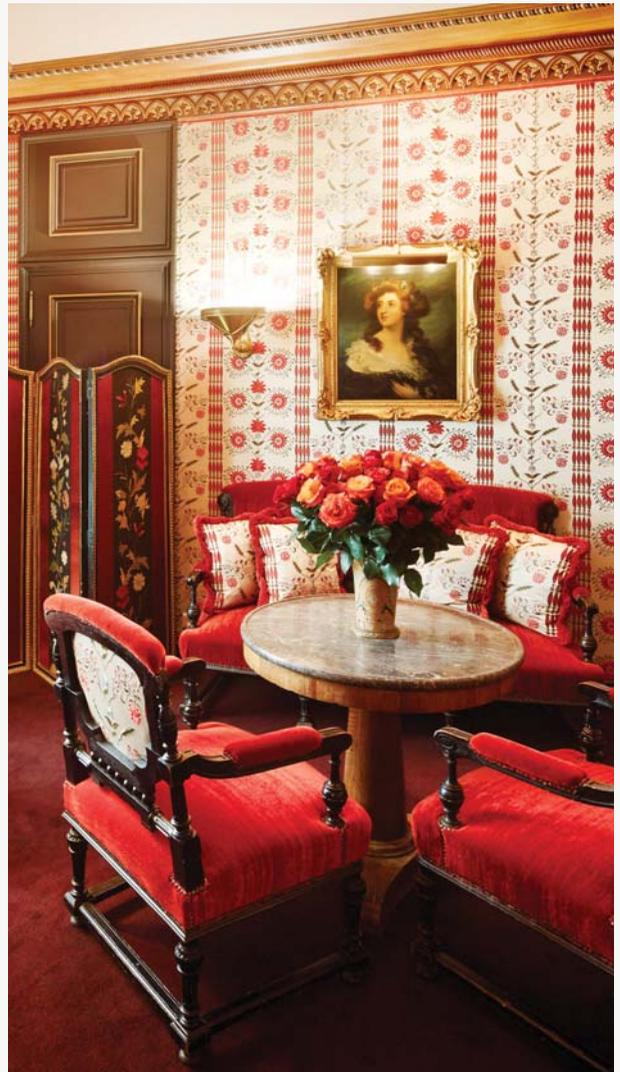
Another central element to building its identity is the sound, which was overseen by Stéphane Pompougnac (reportedly worked as a waiter at the establishment some 10 years earlier). Introduced to Jean-Louis Costes in 1997, he helped pioneer the hotel lounge music and garnered a reputation in beats and rhythm over his 13-year period as a resident DJ.

The hotel also thrives in extending its brand to lifestyle products, ranging from chocolate, liqueur, roses, book, and scented

candles and perfume by Olivia Giacobetti, all with the personalities unique to the hotel. The offering extends to collaboration with famous brands. One case in point is the uber-chic swimwear brand Eres, whose artistic director is inspired by the hotel's serene underground spa, in contrast to the hustle and bustle of the happenings upstairs. The bestselling product is, however, none other than its discographies. Over 15 mix series have been released since 1999 and more than a million copies sold. You can take home these indigenous bits of Hôtel Costes at the store adjacent to the entrance. Otherwise, the hotel also has an Apple Music channel to share its rhythm with a wider audience.

It would not be an overstatement that Hotel Costes is unabashedly over-the-top. It is the place to see and to be seen. It spellbinds and transports you into a world of its own. Our favorites and ones you can never go wrong are the enormous escargots and the baby rack of lamb with French fries. Complete your meal with wild berries with Chantilly cream or pavlova for a sweet pleasure.

- Pamara Chavanothai



WHEN IN ROME

There is so much to remember about the **Villa Spalletti Trivelli**.

Although we stayed only a night or two each time, the overall experience is so rich that I could practically hear the bronze encased buzzer ring at the door and feel the soft slippers at my feet.

Rome, the beautiful tourist attraction that deserves to be, requires a place to stay that is a sanctuary from all the constant flow of bodies, selfie sticks, and poseurs. It requires a place that feels like home. But the Villa Spalletti Trivelli is not just any home, it is the home of people who have lived well and know how to better than most.

On our first trip, we didn't ask any questions but our senses told us enough to know that this place was special definitely not owned by a chain or a large corporation. It felt personal, like someone took the time to pick exactly which linen would go under which items in the bathroom and which Ginori piece would be used for each of the breakfast dishes being served. It is a meticulous display of attention to detail that should be applauded.

When you arrive, it truly is as if you are arriving at the Cromley's townhome. You ring the doorbell and from there all is taken care of, bags and checking in, while you are led to the manicured Italian gardens at the back of the hotel for a drink of your choice. You notice immediately the sense of quiet and calm.

VILLASPALLETTI.IT



The rooms are like those in a proper stately home, all different but of the same standard and from the same hand. A beautiful pattern of terrazzo or parquet floors ground the rooms, while blue velvets, perfect white linens, amazing aged wood pocket louvered windows that you rarely see today, and an all white marble bathroom exudes cleanliness and old-school luxury. There is not a creature comfort that has not been thought of.

We especially loved the drawing room, library and breakfast room on the ground floor.

Two large sofa settings anchor the drawing room on each side in blues and reds that reflect the large tapestries hanging behind them and the Persian carpets beneath.

On one side an honor system open bar with a perfectly edited selection of drinks atop an antique console. On the other a tall secretary is filled with chinoiserie ceramics. In the adjoining room is the library walled with antique bookshelves, reading chairs and a game table for four. Both rooms are perfect for that afternoon break after battling the ancient sites, or to work off that carbonara from da Cesare.

Although I'm usually not a fan of breakfast buffets - probably because of the quality and hygiene of most - the one at the Villa Spalletti is just so beautifully presented, thorough, thoughtful and of excellent quality that it makes it difficult not to fall in love with it. Nine different preserves and spreads are in blue and

white pottery with their names written on. Four different breakfast cakes are presented in glass domes in stands. Viennoiserie stay warm and crispy in linens inside a silver warmer. A perfect still life worthy bowl of fruits centers the table and a precise square acrylic box keeps the cheese selections cool and away from the noses that mind it. All of this is blanketed by a light green table cloth, silver service and custom Richard Ginori tableware with the Villa Spalletti Trivelli crest painted on them.

All that I have mentioned is just the hardware, which is already difficult to do tastefully and naturally, but the software is the same. Quiet, calm, and always at your service when needed. Ring the doorbell and they are there immediately, same when you fancy a drink and a snack in the drawing room, or if you'd like your eggs over easy and not too runny with pancetta crisps on top. Their standard of service again is that of a fine home, reflecting the owners, you are their guest as much as the owners. It is no surprise then that the Villa Spalletti Trivelli is really a home and the current owner, Giangiacomo Spalletti Trivelli, still lives here as his family has over the last 100-plus years.

The Villa is perfectly located and a nice 15 minute walk to the Spanish Steps, less than 10 minutes to the la Rinascente department store as well as new food hall at the Centrale Stazione.

- Chanintr Sirisant





PHOTO COURTESY OF ASIAN OASIS

CRUISE CONTROL

What better way to avoid that infamous Bangkok city traffic than by taking to its fluid artery, the Chao Phraya river? If stylish entertaining on the move is your thing then riding the waters on the **'Namthip'** boat provides you not only with a glorious open top-deck for relaxed sunset cocktails and deluxe group dining, but below deck you'll find two first-class bedroom suites each with its own en-suite bathroom and onboard timber-lined showers. Anchors up and Mai Tai down!

Following extensive renovations to what was once a work-horse rice transportation barge, Namthip is housed within a handsome solid wood hull with a roof-top of timber shingles and bamboo grass cloth lining.



The design and decor for Namthip, as overseen by our studio, pay homage to a traditional Thai architectural materials palette. Teakwood timber paneling, woven rattan, bamboo and solid timber floor boarding are cool under bare feet and soothing to the eyes, whilst textiles, furnishings and colours are an inspired selection of Thai silk, linen, cotton and jute, in laidback tones and golden yellows.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASIAN OASIS

Entertaining guests will be taken care of by the boat's onboard staff. All elements of Namthip's renovation, from the mechanical to onboard safety equipment, are specified to the highest levels of quality with the intent of making guests time cruising on the boat as enjoyable and relaxing as possible. Cruise options include touring within the Bangkok metropolis itself, or going it slow, upriver, to the wonders of the ancient capital of Ayutthaya.

To book your own special time with Namthip, contact Asian Oasis for reservations.

- Albano Daminato



WOMAN STACKING BOXES NO.2, RODEO DRIVE, CALIFORNIA, 1998

ATTENTION: ART COLLECTORS, STOCK BROKERS, DAYDREAMERS AND THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE IT ALL.

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RODNEY SMITH

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PHOTO COURTESY OF EMIRATES

FIRST CLASS DESIGNS

“It’s the journey, not the destination” is a mantra that many esteemed travelers hold dear to their hearts. With today’s sophisticated flight networks filling our skies, there are numerous ways one can connect any two points in the world — and that’s why the journey matters. In the realm of commercial aviation, choosing a different airline, or airplane, can alter your travel experience tremendously. And the difference is magnified to a great degree when you fly in the front cabin as airlines tend to approach and define “luxury” differently, resulting in a variety of “first class” products. Case in point - let us explore here some of the world’s most renowned first class seats in our skies today:

EMIRATES' FIRST CLASS ON NEW 777-300ER

Emirates introduced its latest First Class product on the new Boeing 777-300ER birds in 2017, and it has since become one of the most sought-after products for aviation enthusiasts. The new First Class cabin consists of only 6 suites, each fully enclosed with floor-to-ceiling walls and doors, spreading over two rows in a 1-1-1 configuration. Inspired by Mercedes Benz S Class, the suites deliver personalized luxury through technology and experience-focused design decisions. The oversized plush cream leather seat exudes a sense of status, and with a touch of a button, it can recline into "zero gravity" position, making its occupants feel as though they're floating in the clouds. In Emirates' new First Class, all suites are designed to have windows - even the ones in the middle of the cabin. The two middle suites are equipped with virtual windows, which are high-definition screens that take a direct real-time feed from outside the plane. Unfortunately, it is quite difficult to experience this product as Emirates has only 9 of its 777 planes fitted with the new First Class suites today.

ROUTES: SELECT 777-300ER DESTINATIONS FROM DXB INCLUDING GVA, BRU, STN, HND



PHOTO COURTESY OF SWISS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

SWISS' FIRST CLASS ON 777-300ER

There's nothing fancy about Swiss' First Class cabin on the airliner's mainstream 777-300ER fleet. But surprisingly, it's this very understated, unpretentious presentation that exudes a sense of quality and luxury. The cabin consists of eight suites spreading over two rows in a typical 1-2-1 configuration. Much of the visible hard surfaces in each suite are dressed in warm wood tones which give a dramatic contrast to the dark charcoal-colored seat covering. Each suite is also equipped with a sizeable sliding closet which can also be used as a door to close off the suite. The same visual vocabulary continues on to the excellent First Class lounge in Zurich with clean lines and warm wood tones that engulf guests in a sense of calm even during a hectic transit. Most notably, the First Class lounge in Zurich also has several sleeping rooms, each fully equipped with its own spacious shower and an expansive view of the tarmac.

ROUTES: ALL 777-300ER DESTINATIONS FROM ZRH INCLUDING BKK, SIN, HKG, SFO, ETC.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ETIHAD

ETIHAD'S FIRST APARTMENT ON A380

Everyone is left in awe the first time they step inside Etihad's first class cabin on the airliner's A380. As you enter the single-aisle cabin, the beautifully symmetrical curvature of the plane and the whimsical lighting on the ceiling transport you to a serene state of mind where any stress you might have had simply ceases to exist. The narrow single aisle is an entry way to nine luxurious suites dubbed as First Apartments, a name that highlights the generous amount of space and functionality. Each Apartment comes with a large armchair-type leather seat tucked comfortably beside a full vanity closet on one side. On the opposite side is a long leather bench that extends the full length of the Apartment. While you're in the shower, your flight attendant can convert this bench into a flat bed for a good night's sleep. Here food is made to order by your personal butler. And if you should grow tired of your own space, you may retire to the beautiful lounge right behind the first class cabin and enjoy the company of other first class passengers.

ROUTES: ALL A380 DESTINATIONS FROM AUH INCLUDING LHR, SYD, JFK



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE AIRLINES

SINGAPORE AIRLINES' SUITE CLASS (2ND GEN) ON A380

For Singapore Airlines, luxury is spaciousness and privacy. Singapore's second generation A380 First Suites cabin is located at the front of the superjumbo's upper deck. As you enter any of the six individual suites from the cabin's single aisle, you're hit with such an unprecedented amount of space you may whisper to yourself "This is ridiculous!" At first sight, the suite welcomes you with nothing but a beautiful leather armchair that pivots electronically and a minimalistic side table. The full-length flat bed is neatly tucked away out of sight until it is needed. Two passengers traveling together in adjacent suites can request to have the walls between their suites lowered, transforming the combined space into one large bedroom in the sky.

ROUTES: SELECT A380 FLIGHTS BETWEEN SIN AND SYD, LHR, ZRH, PVG, HKG, BOM

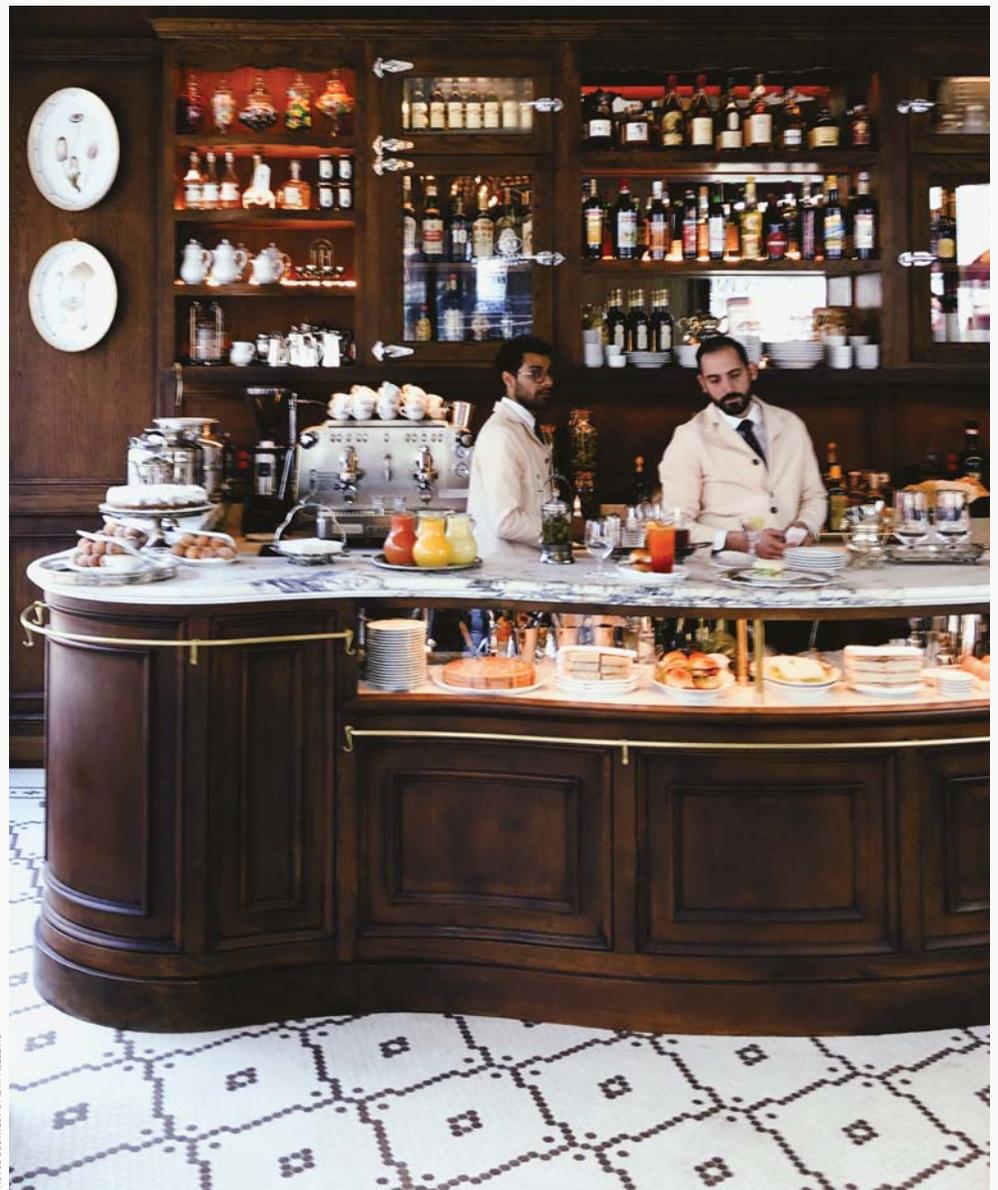
- Tharin Laorauvirodige

PISELLINO PERFETTO

Opening a restaurant anywhere is a crapshoot. Opening a restaurant in New York City, however, is letting it all ride on number 13 in a game of roulette. But when Rita Sodi and Jody Williams decided to open Via Carota in Manhattan's West Village, it didn't feel like the odds were stacked heavily against them — at least not for onlookers familiar with the duo's work. This was the coming together of two veteran chefs, both of whom at this point had independently earned quite a name for themselves in the industry. Sodi with her traditional Tuscan restaurant I Sodi, which garnered two stars from *New York Times* restaurant critic Pete Wells, and Williams with her all-day bistro Buvette.

Industry buzz aside, the two did not expect for Via Carota to quietly go on to become New York's "most perfect restaurant," with lines beginning to form even before sunset daily. Now fast forward to 2019. Not only has the couple been named James

BARPISELLINO.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BARPISELLINO

Beard Award finalists for 'Best Chefs in New York' for their work at Via Carota, but have also added another address to their growing list of West Village establishments.

The newly opened **Bar Pisellino** is nestled in opposite Via Carota on the triangular corner of Grove Street and Seventh Avenue. Working with only 600 square feet, Sodi and Williams opted for a grand standing bar made of oak panels and Carrara marble at the end of the room; most of the activity is meant to ensue here, with drinks crafted by John Mullen, formerly of Maison Premiere. Next, one can't help but admire the small details that help create the picture-perfect Italian train station look the power couple envisioned: the servers' buttoned-up ivory jackets, hand-lettered booklets, mosaic floor and golden touches. Wooden benches and side tables line the triangular indoor space, while extra seating outside creates the perfect setup for a summer afternoon pick-me-up.

The inspiration for the bar comes from the couple's time abroad in Sodi's birth country, Italy. The concept fits extremely well with New York's 24-hour hustle and bustle. Just like their favorite places in Bel Paese, the two chefs want passersby to drop in early in the morning for their cup of coffee, a spritz later in the day and maybe some snacks and cocktails while waiting in line for Via Carota in the evening. You can expect to find espresso drinks and pastries, like *shakerato* and *bombolini* in the morning menu, as well as sandwiches, panini and spritzes in the afternoon. As night falls, bar snacks like our favorite *cacio e pepe* potato chips start rolling out of the bar.

As Williams told *Grub Street* in her interview, "I think this place has the feeling of a train station out in the country, where you end up at the bar and you miss your next three trains because you met somebody and you're having such a good time." And that might very well be the best image anyone can paint of Bar Pisellino.

- Uracha Chaiyapinunt



A GUIDE OF GIFT GIVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Contour Chair

DESIGN BY BØRGE MOGENSEN

Carl Hansen & Søn

The iconic and immediately recognizable Contour Chair is a distinctive design by Børge Mogensen. The lounge chair, with its form-pressed veneer backrest, attracted considerable attention, as it was a strong exponent of a completely new design idiom from Mogensen, known until then for a simple, functional approach to design that was grounded in his strong social conscience.

Baht 131,000



Musc Lounge Chair

Liaigre

Featuring a linen upholstered seat and oiled wenge base, Liaigre's Musc lounge chair invites a casual attitude that is subtle yet sophisticated. The comfortable proportions and materials used create a warm and welcoming feeling that will make you feel right at home.

Price upon request



Folia Portable Lamp

(LIMITED EDITION)

Saint-Louis

The limited edition Folia Portable Lamp features clear crystal double-layered with amber crystal and brushed brass finish. The staggered bevel-cut crystal creates a surprising geometric pattern multiplied by the light, reflecting an abundance of technological skill. The portable LED lamp is autonomous, mobile and cordless which can be used both indoors and outdoors. It is rechargeable and has up to 25 hours' autonomy when used at low intensity.

Baht 123,000



Grace Spot Table

THE MIDTOWN COLLECTION

Hickory Chair

A great jewelry item that adds drama and functionality to any room. The Grace crystal bowl is made from a square block of crystal with a recessed round bowl and comes with metal base.

Baht 67,000



Daniels Sofa

DESIGN BY CHRISTOPHE DELCOURT

Minotti

Straight from Milan as part of the recently unveiled 2019 collection, Minotti's Daniels seating system can be compared to a landscape design project: carefully plotted combinations of elements come together to create a new domestic scenery. Designed with the concept of full modularity in mind, Daniels' versatility allows for infinite compositions and endless possibilities. It is available in all fabric or all leather.

Price upon request



Yuh Table Lamp

DESIGN BY GAMFRATESI

Louis Poulsen

The most spectacular feature about the glare-free Yuh table lamp — aside from its sleek, minimalistic design — is its practicality. It can rotate, rise and lower to every user's needs, with dimming and timer functions as well. Yuh features black, wet painted aluminum brushed Italian Nero Margiua marble and extruded brushed brass, adding a touch of elegance to your work space.

Baht 40,000



Hathaway Bath Accessories

Waterworks

No detail is left behind with Waterworks. Complete your bathroom look with the Hathaway Collection, characterized by rich, creamy porcelain casted in graceful ribbed silhouettes. The effect is both relaxed and elegant. Use it in your master bath as a personal indulgence, or impress your visitors by leaving it in the guest bathroom.

From Baht 1,300

Perspective Mirror

Baker

Precisely executed brass frames a three-dimensionally faceted mirror. This mirror serves as a functional piece of art accenting any room.

Baht 344,000



Atlas Office Landscape

DESIGN BY TIM WALLACE

Herman Miller

Atlas Office Landscape is a work system which brings together height-adjustability and collaborative working in one elegant solution. With a unique "no beam" structure, it frees the workspace from clutter so people can sit or stand in comfort, adapting postures to their activities.

Baht 55,600



BB Loungewear

Barbara Barry

Inspired by the softness of Marshmallow Gauze, Barbara Barry designed her feminine loungewear to be luxurious yet soft, so that wearers are enveloped in total comfort when wearing her piece. The loungewear is produced by Uchino, a Japanese company in Tokyo that has specialized in bath linen since 1947, and is available exclusively at Barbara Barry's flagship store in Bangkok.

Baht 9,800

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A JOURNEY LESS ORDINARY

Over 4.4 billion air passengers took to the skies last year. Among them, an unlikely jetsetter: A petite traveller with an oversized luggage, clocking in far more air miles than her fear of flying is comfortable with. But she carries on, driven by the belief that in today's Digital Age, the privilege of having a trusted source whose recommendations you can always count on is priceless.

Sii Eawsakul, founder of LuxuryHunt.com and publisher of 100 BEST, is a pioneer in the online travel industry in Asia. Her résumé includes co-founding a company with a stable of high-profile travel sites, such as Phuket.com, Bangkok.com and LateStays.com.

Today, Sii is on a mission to unveil authentic destinations and experiences, proving that the saying "Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer" is more than just a pretty quote for social media. Combining her personal experiences with a trusted team of global jetsetters, Sii has handpicked a collection of hotels, resorts, ultra-luxury tented camps, villas as well as yachts and cruises to share with readers—complete with original photography. From exploring her home country of Thailand to discovering the essence of luxury, Sii takes readers with her around the world in the 2019-2020 edition of the bi-annual 100 BEST hardcover book.

In the increasingly crowded hospitality industry, luxury isn't defined by thread count or big names (though some in the collection are as name-drop-worthy as they come). "Travel is all about the people," says Sii. "In a place where language should be an issue, it isn't, because kindness has no barriers."

And that is the ultimate travel luxury.

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