

# Gostelow Report Live

exclusively for ILTM/Reed Travel Exhibitions

SPECIAL REPORT

Singapore, May 30, 2019

What is luxury? Is it perfection and just what you want, though you did not know it? The food stall at The Retreat here has every banana in prime condition – and oh, my gosh, try the Rocket Fuel energy-boosting drink. ILTM Asia Pacific has created an area devoted to brands and their treatments/specialist areas. Run/Walk/Breathe/Relax – **The Retreat** is a lounge area on the show floor with leading practitioners from Six Senses, as well as some of the region's top wellness brands, AMAN, Banyan Tree, COMO and Ritz-Carlton hotels. Naturopathic anti-jetlag provider Jet Candy is on hand, as is Forum speaker, osteopath Julien Paccaud • Luxury, says **Virtuoso's** Matthew Upchurch, is knowing you can do something yourself but why not pay someone to do it for you? Anyway, Market Research's Survey of Affluence and Wealth says that by 2022: luxury is the fastest-growing segment of the travel industry worldwide, and the really wealthy consistently rate travel as their top passion • But, said Leading's Area President Philip Ho at the educational session on Monday, travel at this level is becoming a segment of one, just for YOU, or you or you. There is increasing choice for that one, by the way, as, also on Monday, TOPHOTELnews announced an additional 500+ hotels coming up in China alone • Bear in mind, too, that the UNWTO 2018 report on Asia Tourism Trends shows that latest figures for international tourist arrivals in Asia Pacific show 6% growth to reach 323 million, around a quarter of the world's total. Asia Pacific also plays a vital role as a source market, fuelling growth in both regional and long-haul destinations – latest figures, admittedly for 2017, show 335 million international travellers spending US\$502 billion (37% of the world's total). Around 80% of these travels were concentrated in Asia destinations and of the remaining 20% of trips, 56% were to Europe.

Health & Wellness is expected globally to reach US\$919 billion by 2022 and the sector is understandably a key element of every ILTM event (in APAC, there are thought to be some 238 million wellness-interest trips this year, with spend of over US\$136 billion) • **Six Senses** CEO Neil Jacobs, in the white safari suit that is his Singapore norm, knows this only too well. He bubbled with enthusiasm as he explained that the company starts, next month, partnering on slow-joyful ageing with Neo-Shamanism and Energy Medicine specialist Dr Alberto Villoldo, a Cuban medical anthropologist who looks much younger than his biological age (69). Also, he reveals that there will be Soho House-type clubs here in Singapore and at the forthcoming Six Senses New York (the difference is that the Six Senses clubs will all be wellness-themed). New York will have a Paris 3-star Michelin chef • Talking of keeping fit, at the 36-floor **Shangri-La Hotel Sydney**, GM Philippe Kronberg: as well as using calories walking down from its Cumberland Street vantage point, via The Rocks' Hickson Steps to Circular Quay, the hotel recommends some significant runs, say along Circular Quay to the Opera House, Lady Macquarie's Chair, Royal Botanic Gardens, Hyde Park and back, total 9 km. At the 56-key hotel corner rooms -07 and -13 are favourites, as are any rooms with access to the 30th floor Horizon club lounge (room 3006 is closest).

All this wellness involvement has led to the term Affluent New Agers, those with wealth, longer life expectancies and the desire to achieve and maintain quality not only of life but lifestyle. They are value conscious and demanding and they want the very best for their money (they spend at least \$200,000 per trip). These are the drivers for medical tourism, too • In Morocco, take quad bikes off into the desert when staying at **Four Seasons Hotel Marrakech**, next to Menara Gardens. GM Blaise Montandon is very keen on desert trips: for a three-day stay, he recommends one day for the desert, another for a curated art tour to include a private visit to Yves St Laurent's house and Fondation Montresso, plus one day for a one-on-one photographic safari in the Medina. At the 139-room garden-set hotel, families especially like the 350 sq m Royal Villa • Talking of families, **Finca Cortesin Hotel, Villas, Golf & Spa** - GM René Zimmer - offers, daily, two-hour complimentary babysitting, maximum two kids per villa. Finca Cortesin, in Casares, is an hour from Malaga airport: its 220ha of land includes spectacular Cabell Robinson golf (7,439 yards, par-72), and beautiful gardens and pools, and there is a dedicated beach at the hotel's exclusive ocean-side club, reached by complimentary shuttle. Finca Cortesin, a member of **Preferred**, is adding 16 villas to its current portfolio of four villas, plus 67 bedrooms • Jade Kim is here representing The Maldives' colourful **Le Cheval Blanc Randheli** (GM Renato Chizzola), where arrivals, perhaps flying in, in the hotel's own taupe and sunflower De Havilland Twin Otter, are met jetty-side by management exhibiting a white fashion show highlighted by royal blue and that sunflower yellow. All 45 villas have 12.5-metre pools – the 1,000 sq m four-bedroom Owner's Villa has a 20-metre pool. Among the great memories from this Noonu Atoll resort are Le Carrousel kids' club, Le Paddock teen hang-out, Italian, Japanese and seafood cuisines and the chef who came to cook an in-villa dinner • Elsewhere in the Indian Ocean, think Mauritius, and **LUX\* Collective**, the latest evolution of eternally-creative hotelier Paul Jones (not to be confused with Mandarin Oriental's Man in Tokyo). LUX\* Paul Jones has relocated to Singapore, to be more in touch with the company's growing empire. LUX\* properties are for fun-loving luxury travellers who revel in fresh-roast coffee, food truck beach snacks, while the fledgling Salt brand has a more eco, living-plant emphasis • Tom Roelens, Belgium GM of **Four Seasons Kuala Lumpur**, is justly proud that the 209-room hotel's Bar Trigona, already one of San Pellegrino's 50 best, is 2019 winner of the Ketel One Sustainable Bar Award (local trigona honey replaces sugar in the signature Old Fashioned, and the Bar Trigona Foraging Club explores local farm-to-glass possibilities). Staycationers, a growing trend in Kuala Lumpur (and Singapore) love the hotel's opulent silver-grey colour schemes, its outdoor pool, Subtle Energy facials and Tiffany-themed afternoon teas. It's also within a few minutes' walk of genuine designer retail at sometimes unreal value prices • Kuala Lumpur has two other hotels coming up to their first birthday. The 250-room **RuMa**, from the Urban Resorts creative team – think The PuLi, coming up to 10 years strong – incorporates such colonial-era Malay elements as public rooms' copper ceilings, a reminder of Malaysia's mining industries, with today's Malaysia Tatler at-home style (the name RuMa comes from the Malay 'home', rumah). The artsy-sleek RuMa, GM Guido Farina, has a truly memorable sixth floor pool, black and gold lined and cantilevered off the sixth floor outdoor terrace. Urban Resorts' boss Markus Engel, incidentally, won Corporate Hotelier of the Year at the glittering Stelliers 2019 awards ceremony here at MBS this very Tuesday • And then, to fit in with youthful creatives, think **W Kuala Lumpur**, GM Christian Metzner. This is the 150-room hotel for those who crave selfies by the 12th floor

outdoor terrace's 19-metre oval pool, with its floating multi-coloured balloons (and a backdrop of the city's iconic Twin Towers).

**The Fortress Resort & Spa, Galle** (GM [Jan van Twest](#)), illustrates the genuine hospitality in Sri Lankan DNA – one of the shareholders is the passionate Malik Fernando, of the Dilmah Tea dynasty. Favourites of the 49 rooms are the two 240 sq m Fortress Residences, butlers, two ensuite bedrooms sharing a deck with cantilevered pool • **Shangri-La's Boracay Resort's** recently-arrived GM [Dave Junker](#) says that island is not only back in business but cleaner and more attractive than ever – favourites among guests, who include a considerable Korean component, include two-floor 216 sq m Treehouse Villas, bedroom down, living room-terrace-jacuzzi up, airport transfers and breakfast included • It's admirable that CEOs, no less, take the time to come to ILTM Asia Pacific, to fly the flag and meet the tip-top VIP media. [Nicholas Clayton](#), CEO **Capella Hotel Group**, explained forthcoming inhotel Culturalists, to share local experiences. [Doran Rommel](#), GM of **Capella Shanghai**, is keen to show off his Shikumen-area hotel, once the French Legation: book ahead for finest-French in Le Comptoir by Pierre Gagnaire restaurant • Similarly, **Langham Hotel Group** CEO [Stefan Leser](#), of course wearing a pink tie, praised the show's bright pink carpeting while explaining that his brand's new look does include subdued-pink business cards. **The Langham Sydney**, GM [Gaylord Lamy](#), is about to unveil a new interactive restaurant with no fewer than six cooking stations – the hotel's lower level fitness centre and pool, complete with trompe l'oeil views on end walls, continues to be a top favourite of local A-listers • **The Bulgari Resort, Bali**, is run by charismatic movie buff [Yuji Tanaka](#) (travel advisors flocked to him when he opened **Ritz-Carlton Kyoto**). One of the many features of this 59-villa resort is its multilevel wedding chapel: arrive at 250m above sea level and process down 100 metres to the clifftop ceremony space – there's a New Zealand-made inclinor elevator down to the beach. To really impress, take the sensational two-floor, 1,600 sq m Bulgari Villa, 2-3 bedrooms, 10-seat screening room, 16-seat dining, 19.5m private pool • There is a 200m private beach at Kuwait's **Jumerah Messilah Beach Hotel**, GM [Savino Leone](#): this 395-room hotel is ideal for business – the 360 sq m Royal Suite sleeps six, plus two kids.

Thank you [Alison Gilmore](#) and your team, helped by [Nina Gardiner](#) and **Spotlight Communications**, for another spectacular event. And thank you, too, to **France-24** for sponsoring the ILTM app – it has been so handy to have continuous world news, to know what is going on in the rest of the world. But tonight our world is right here, with the Closing Party. See you there, and in [Cannes \(December 2-5\)](#) if not at other events in the ILTM Portfolio along the way. And see you here again, for **ILTM Asia Pacific 2020, May 18-21 2020**. Meanwhile, tonight promises to be a mega-finale, MBS 7.30 p.m. until Cinderella's go-home time.

**Remember the hashtags:** #ILTMAsiaPacific #momentsthatmatter #runwalkbreatherelax #businessinharmony #iltmevents. **And follow the portfolio:** Facebook: @iltmevents Instagram: @iltm\_events Linkedin: International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) Twitter: @iltm\_events

©Mary Gostelow 2019 [gostelow@aol.com](mailto:gostelow@aol.com)