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MAY 2017

GERMANY

CELEBRATING ITS SOUTHERN BELLE





DESTINATION DRAKENSBERG

Fling open the curtains at the Alpine Health Resort and the dramatic views of the Drakensberg mountains will have you reaching for your camera. Inspired to explore, the 90-minute Cascades Hike saw me fording five streams, with surefooted guide Victor Dube helping his flock safely across.

Horse-riding, swimming, supervised kids' activities, family movie sessions, karaoke and massages at the spa are all on offer, or you could enjoy a quiet braai on your private patio. Acquired by the aha Group three years ago, the 20-year-old resort is undergoing a thorough overhaul. "Some of the rooms really needed a touch-up," says Nonkululeko Nyathi, aha's Digital Marketing Coordinator. And they're getting more than just a lick of paint. A complete revamp means additions like en suite master bedrooms and full kitchens – although you don't have to cook as a buffet restaurant, bar and coffee lounge serve delicious meals (the vegetable curry is a win).

The resort is priced to attract locals from Durban or Jo'burg rather than dollar-denominated foreigners, and the size of the chalets makes them ideal for large groups. Visit: <http://aha.co.za/alpinehealth/>
– Lesley Stones



5 MINUTES WITH...

Raymond Weber is the new Executive Chef at CUT by Wolfgang Puck at the boutique, new-generation Four Seasons Hotel New York Downtown. Coming from CUT in Dubai and having worked in Los Angeles and Washington DC, he certainly knows how to satisfy the most demanding clients.

Best meal ever? At Eleven Madison Park, where we spent the most personalised and amazing three-and-a-half hours for my wife's birthday in January.

Best country for foodies? Aside from the USA, I'd say Turkey – Istanbul in particular. You'll find amazing street food at the little street-side trash-can fires and equally incredible meals at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Travel secret? Do your research. Not just Tripadvisor. Before travelling I hunt around on Instagram to find a true review.

Next destination? I'm planning two weeks in Japan. My wife is the pastry chef at CUT, so we need some inspiration and, of course, R&R. – **Daniel Scheffler**



WATCH THIS SPACE

The Longines Aviation Watch Type A-7 1935 is all about airplanes – or at least, those who fly them.

This fine timepiece was developed specifically to be worn on the inside of the wrist, allowing pilots to read the time without having to release a plane's control yoke. The good news is that you don't have to be a pilot to own one.

Get yours at World's Finest Watches, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg. Visit: www.worldsfinest.co.za

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BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



SANTA MONICA, USA

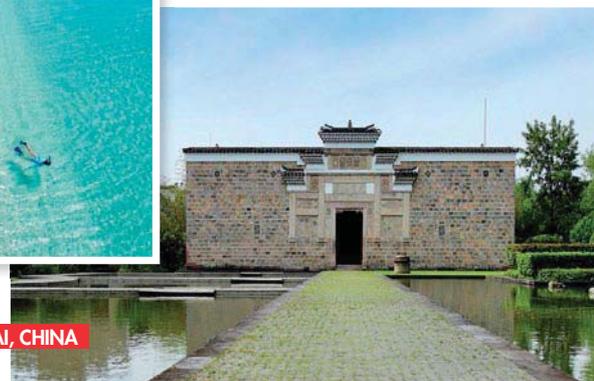
ST LUCIA, THE CARIBBEAN



KADAVU ISLAND GROUP, FIJI



BROOKLYN, USA



SHANGHAI, CHINA

GLOBAL EYE

By Daniel Scheffler

ST LUCIA, THE CARIBBEAN Wondering where to spend your winter? St Lucia offers a taste of paradise. Jade Mountain, owned by artist Nick Troubetzkoy, is bold and gorgeous. Think sweeping views over your infinity pool to the St Lucia Pitons World Heritage Site and the turquoise sea. With new flights from Miami and New York, it's even easier to get there! The Sky Jacuzzi Suite calls! www.jademountain.com

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY One of the world's most beautiful cities is also where you'll find one of the world's most beautiful hotels – the Four Seasons Gresham Palace. This meticulously restored art nouveau masterpiece is your gateway to this grand old city. The recently unveiled Chain Bridge suite (which comes with a butler) offers unforgettable views of Buda Hills, Royal Castle and the Fisherman's Bastion. Old world done well! www.fourseasons.com/budapest

SANTA MONICA, USA Located just a stone's throw from the beach, the Fairmont Miramar recently revamped its famous garden bungalows. Designer Michael Berman has created a modern, casually elegant feel with all the amenities a luxury hotel should offer. Valet services and breakfast are included. www.fairmont.com/santa-monica

SHANGHAI, CHINA Of course the Aman does things right. Their latest gem? A peaceful, sanctuary called Amanyangyun – a traditional village resort found in the midst of a relocated camphor forest just outside downtown Shanghai. The antique villas – Ming and Qing dynasty dwellings – have been reassembled brick by brick to create a peaceful refined space. Interiors are wood, stone and bamboo. www.aman.com/resorts/amanyangyun

BROOKLYN, USA Cooler than cool, the 1Hotel Brooklyn Bridge has taken sustainability to new heights. Located on the promenade in Brooklyn Heights, overlooking the iconic Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan, the trendy hotel is decorated with the work of local artists, indigenous greenery and reclaimed materials. www.1hotels.com/brooklyn-bridge

KADAVU ISLAND GROUP, FIJI With iconic white, sandy beaches adjacent to the eco-rich divers' paradise Astrolabe reef, Kokomo Island recently opened on its own private island. With just 21 villas, all with private pools, it's all about sustainability here. Setting the new standard for the area, everything is done with eco-consciousness in mind. Days are spent snorkelling and diving and lying under that middle-of-nowhere sun. www.kokomoislandfiji.com