

WALK WITH US As we step out with a new look and feel for this issue of Footprints, I'm excited to say we have a lot of stories to share with you. So many in fact, that this issue is only a fleeting – yet beautiful – glimpse at all that's going on at Minor Hotels and our globe-dotting destinations. I'd like to thank all my colleagues for the passion they've brought to each endeavour. With new openings and acquisitions this year, we've reached a portfolio of 155 hotels and resorts in 24 countries. Particular points of pride include our first Anantara and AVANI properties in Europe with launches in Portugal and our first Indian hotel with our new Oaks in Bodhgaya. We've also added another highlight to China with Anantara Guiyang. Our cover story on the new renaissance in Portugal reveals why the country is Europe's destination of the moment. We also follow the Bawa trail in Sri Lanka where more of our newest resorts invite exploration, including a few by the master architect himself. Then we shop the souks of the UAE, explore Bangkok's secrets through the canals, share some tips on feeling healthy and always refreshed while you're on the move, before island hopping in the Maldives to find the perfect playground to match your mood.

I hope that everyone who peruses these pages finds a new gem they weren't expecting – that next weekend getaway, a great escape to celebrate with

loved ones, a sporting event or artistic happening to

inspire your wanderlust. Preview a selection of our

upcoming experiences on the back cover. We look forward to lighting up the map with even more in the

months to come.

DILLIP RAJAKARIERCEO, MINOR HOTELS

WORLD EVENTS DESTINATION What's on When Portugal in Its Prime SHOPPING LIFESTYLE **GETAWAYS ABOUT MINOR** Choose Your A World of Playground

ART & CULTURE

WELLNESS

COMING SOON

Destinations

Carvoeiro, Algarve, Portugal



ANGKOR WAT INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

An internationally recognised half-marathon through the spectacular Angkor Wat ruins, with proceeds going towards Cambodia's mine victims.

WHERE: Siem Reap, Cambodia

WHEN: 3 Dec 2017

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ART SERIES

Enjoy summer in the city, with a series of art exhibitions featuring exciting new artists and masters of the classics.

WHERE: Sydney, Australia WHEN: 1 Nov 2017 - 18 Feb 2018













ortugal is having a moment now that no one expected. Just seven years ago, the coastal country was on the cusp of a debilitating debt crisis – local businesses shuttered, young professionals fled. But a determined economic turnaround later, Portuguese shores are once again riding a wave of resurgence, from the capital Lisbon to the southernmost banks of the Algarve. Cultural venues, restaurants and attractions are opening by the boatload, making Portugal arguably the most exciting destination in Europe right now.

Medieval history still runs deep, and how archaism and brand-spanking newness combine is what makes Portugal so truly intoxicating. Nowhere is this stark contrast more apparent than in Lisbon's waterfront district Belém, where late Gothic architecture and museums mingle with the wafting aroma of custard tarts from the famed bakery Antiga Confeitaria.

These days tourists don't just come to Belém to glut heavenly desserts off blue-and-white china (although it is still as good an excuse as any). Last October, the strikingly beautiful Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT) opened here, jutting onto the Tagus River like a spaceship, next to Central Tejo, a landmark power station that's now a charismatic electricity museum.

The facelifts don't stop there. In 2014, British travel website Time Out turned the historic Mercado da Ribeira marketplace into a gourmet food court, where guests can load up trays with epicurean Portuguese dishes from salt cod to suckling pig, and listen to local guitarists strum out. Meanwhile, the LX Factory – a former industrial complex – has been revamped into an enclave of funky galleries, boho boutiques and courtyard cafés that is the pure essence of the global urban renewal trend.

This is precisely what's so great about Lisbon – you can shuffle around in a shiny black Uber or hop onto Tram 28, a rickety yellow streetcar built in the 1930s that snakes through distinct neighbourhoods from the shopper's paradise Baixa to cobblestoned hilly Alfama. Newfangled or old school, there are endless means of exploration – not just in the city but on its outskirts too, with a 30-minute drive leading to

beach town Cascais or Sintra, a charming medieval village tucked into misty, verdant mountains that is also hailed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

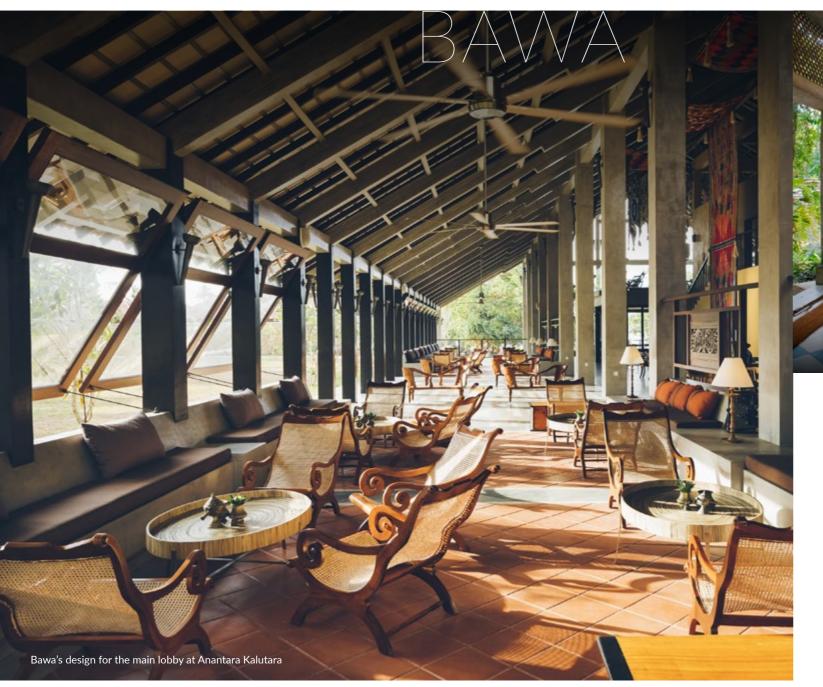
Portuguese cuisine has also become an experimental space where traditional and modern are interchanged. Comfort food thrives without labels at restaurants like Bairro do Avillez, where decadent cheeses, cured meats and other rustic petiscos (small plates) are doled out with delicatessen-taberna vibes. In March, a dimly lit space in the back opened up offering wild set menus of 'exploding' chocolate-filled olives and other moreish wonders – although only those who know the secret password can pull up a seat.

Lisbon's newly reopened Sky Bar is the spitting image of modernity, with chic white furniture, live DJs and bartenders with sculpted beards serving craft cocktails, but it uncovers Lisbon's timeless charm perfectly. Pastel and warm-hued buildings can be seen tumbling down the City of Seven Hills better here than anywhere else.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF

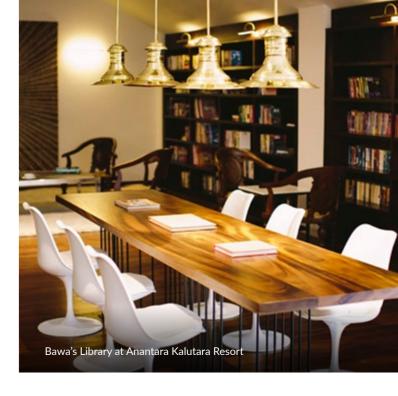
GEOFFREY



rom modest townhouse to corporate office to sprawling oceanfront university, the prolific architecture of Geoffrey Bawa pervades the Sri Lankan landscape, and his works have come to define the Tropical Modern movement. Always in response to and in harmony with the surrounding environment, Bawa's love affair with architecture began with the purchase of Lunuganga Estate in 1948 near Bentota.

The Lunuganga Estate © Lunuganga Trust

The former cinnamon then rubber plantation was his life's work, over 40 years of inspiration and constant experimentation, with sprawling verdant grounds inspired by the Italian Renaissance and English landscaped gardens he had experienced in his youth. Courtyards and terraces unfold to reveal lily ponds, pavilions and lawns dotted by Ming jars and Roman statues. A series of simple bungalows dot the lakefront 15 acres, each dwelling unique yet decidedly 'Bawa-style'.



Beginning with private residences and beach houses, Bawa's commissions soon grew to include a number of upscale hotels dotted along the southern and southwest coast. One of his earlier works was the Serendib Hotel, now known as AVANI Bentota Resort & Spa. His last, Anantara Kalutara Resort, lay incomplete for 15 years following his illness and death, until one of his protégés took over the project and brought his architectural sketches to completion. Bawa's designs for the Kalutara resort maximised sunlight and breeze, highlighting the unique location between a river and the ocean. Original artworks by his contemporaries Ena de Silva and Barbara Sansoni, whose works adorned his own home, can be found in the resort library which holds original Bawa sketches.

Two of Bawa's most monumental works can be found in the capital. The first, Seema Malaka, is a Buddhist temple commissioned by a Muslim couple in honour of their son. Inspired by the ancient forest monasteries, the temple sits in the middle of a tranquil lake, with muted colours and minimalist lines creating a contemplative aura for meditation.

The second, the New Parliament Complex, is situated on an island on the Diyawanna Oya. While Bawa reportedly drew inspiration from the Padmanabhapuram Palace in Tamil Nadu, sweeping copper roofs and the noted asymmetry are reminiscent of Sinhalese Anuradhapura's Brazen Palace, thus weaving together Sri Lanka's main cultural strands.

FOLLOW BAWA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH ARCHITECTURE, A PASSIONATE MARRIAGE OF MODERNIST LINES AND HIS ISLAND'S TROPICAL SETTING.

TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BAWA'S WORK, VISIT ANANTARA KALUTARA RESORT OR AVANI BENTOTA RESORT & SPA. EXPLORE THE ISLAND FURTHER FROM ANANTARA PEACE HAVEN TANGALLE RESORT OR AVANI KALUTARA RESORT.

.....

MORE AT ANANTARA.COM AND AVANIHOTELS.COM



ruly a haven for shopping lovers, the UAE promises eclectic shopping experiences for visitors - from expansive malls full of highend fashion brands to traditional openair markets near the local port. Travellers can get a glimpse into the rich trading culture in the laneways of the ancient souks of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

From fresh fish to high-quality carpets, precious metals to handicrafts and a range of souvenirs, shoppers can find a myriad of wares to peruse on their travels in the UAE. In Abu Dhabi, witness early morning haggling at Mina Zayed Fish Souk or savour a more sophisticated outing to Souk Qaryat Al Beri to buy a beautiful pashmina. Whether you seek insight into the local culture or a chance to splash the cash on high-end names, there's a shopping destination to suit you.

The shopping scene in Dubai also offers an enticing variety of goods for tourists and locals alike. The Spice Souk emanates pungent aromas from the exotic spices within. Jute sacks line every doorway, filled with spices from cumin to kaffir lime leaves. Take an abra across Dubai Creek to source richly coloured fabrics at pocket-friendly prices in the Textile Souk. These traditional wooden boats have been carrying shoppers and locals for years and can also be found on the waterways of Madinat Jumeirah.

Discover an enthralling blend of classic and contemporary in the stylish Souk Al Bahar, situated at the heart of Downtown Dubai. The cool stone corridors with Arabian décor feature over 100 stores selling jewellery, fashion and unusual gifts. Wander through the picturesque alleys of Souk Madinat, built in the style of a traditional Arabian town. With plenty of shops and restaurants, visitors can spend a whole day buying artwork, souvenirs and fragrant Arabian Oudh from the souk's friendly shopkeepers.

Take a leisurely afternoon stroll through the Eastern Mangroves Promenade in Abu Dhabi to pick up a gift for a friend. The Hamdan Centre is a long-standing shopping destination in the city where bargain hunters can get some great deals on luxury goods. Al Mina Fruit and Vegetable Market features an abundance of colourful fruit and vegetables to buy by the kilo. Choose from the freshest produce along with locals and restaurateurs of the city.

ARTE market also runs a monthly makers' market in Dubai, showcasing a range of quality handmade goods that can't be found elsewhere.





THE PALM DUBAI RESORT FOR ASIAN-INSPIRED LUXURY ON THE ICONIC PALM JUMEIRAH OR BE IMMERSED IN CITY CHARMS AT AVANI DEIRA DUBAI HOTEL, WITH CONVENIENT ACCESS TO ALL THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS.

VISIT ANANTARA.COM OR AVANIHOTELS.COM TO BOOK THE PERFECT ROOM, SUITE OR VILLA FOR A UAE SHOPPING HOLIDAY.



BANGKOK BY BOAT

CRUISING THROUGH THE CITY'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS

Bangkok is well-known for its labyrinth of traffic-laden roads, taking the concept of hustle and bustle to a whole new level. Yet there is a way to easily explore the sights of the city without sitting in a traffic jam – by taking to the monumental Chao Phraya River and its connected canals, known in Thai as 'klongs'. Aboard a traditional long-tail boat, you see parts of the city rarely seen by tourists.

Taking a trip along these waterways reveals a network which has been vital to Bangkok's transportation and prosperity for centuries. Nowadays, the banks are bursting with classical wooden houses, farms and businesses. Discover where the locals buy their seafood, visit a riverside supermarket, or have a ready-made meal come to you as a boat cooking skewers on-board floats by.



There are plenty of chances to explore the shoreline yourself. Stretch your legs and wander around spectacular temples. Dating back centuries and covered in bright colours and intricate golden patterns, the details are as stunning as the constructions are immense. Mingle with monks clad in orange as they go about their daily routines, and gaze in awe at statues of Buddha that tower metres above you.

You also have the chance to sample some traditional Thai cuisine. Mouth-watering smells waft from the markets of Klong Bang Luang, with freshly cooked noodle and stir-fry dishes waiting inside for you to taste. If you're still hungry, some mango and sticky

rice makes the perfect traditional dessert, or try a unique Thai iced tea or coffee. Afterwards, wander through the Artist's House, home to a variety of local drawings, paintings, prints and carvings. Enjoy a Thai puppet dance show, and watch stories of the country's ancient stories come to life in a lively and colourful performance.





Back aboard the long-tail, as you pass by homes with friendly Thai people smiling and waving, it's hard to imagine this is the same world as the busy streets and overflowing sidewalks. The peace and tranquillity of the klongs transport you to a part of Bangkok still rarely seen by many visitors and remains as a time capsule of how the city once was.

ANANTARA RIVERSIDE BANGKOK RESORT AND THE ADJACENT AVANI RIVERSIDE BANGKOK HOTEL ARE IDEAL BASES FOR EXPLORING LIFE ALONG THE WATERWAYS. KLONG GURU RIVERSIDE CULTURE TOURS DEPART FROM ANANTARA BANGKOK RIVERSIDE RESORT.

VISIT **ANANTARA.COM** AND **AVANIHOTELS.COM** TO RESERVE YOUR RIVERSIDE ESCAPE.



AVOIDING JET LAG

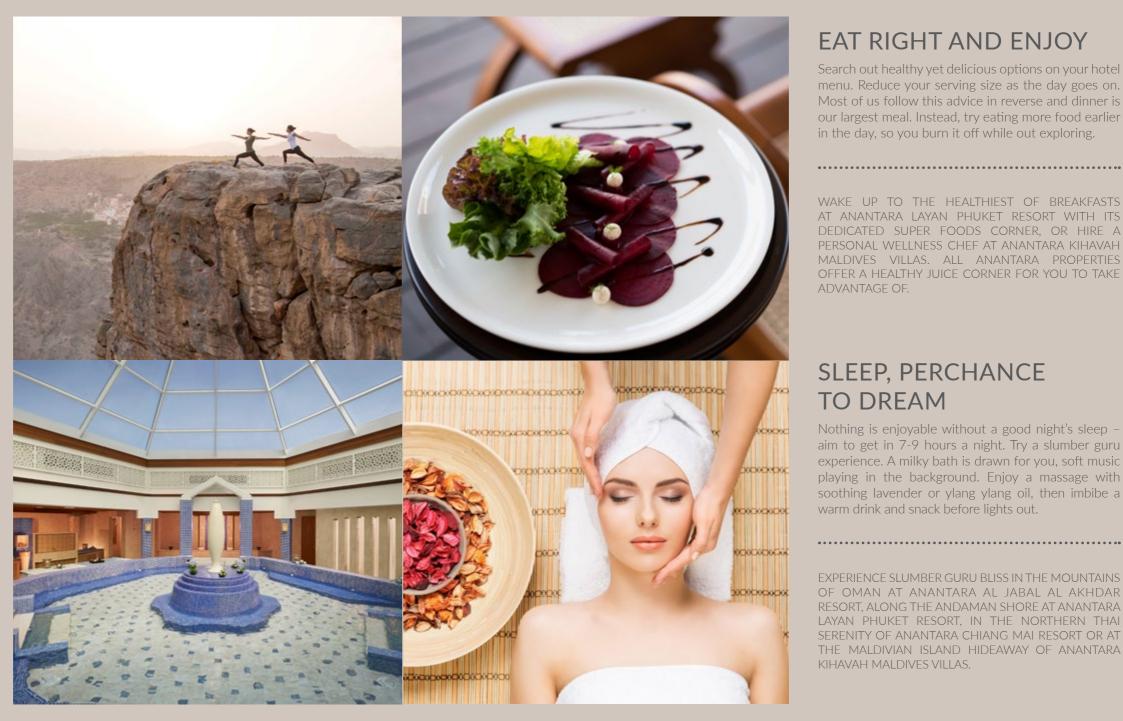
Drink lots of water during the flight and avoid alcohol which dehydrates. Once you reach your arrival destination, take a moment to ground yourself. Stand barefoot outside in the sand or grass for a few moments to connect with your surrounds and your natural energy. Get into your new time zone rhythm as quickly as possible - your body will thank you for it. Ask for a morning wake-up call with a pot of local tea to refresh.

EXPLORE SPECIALITY TEAS OF THE EAST AT ANANTARA PROPERTIES IN GUIYANG, SANYA, XISHUANGBANNA. HOLAN AND MULNE. MAKE MERIT IN THE CITY OF ANGELS, FOLLOWED BY A GENTLE YOGA SESSION AND CHAKRA CRYSTAL BALANCING WITH MORNING WELLNESS BY ANANTARA SIAM BANGKOK HOTEL.

GET WET

The therapeutic effects of water, or hydrotherapy, have been revered since Roman times. Draw a warm bubble bath and take a moment to relax, or laze in a saltwater pool. Cleanse and purify your skin and get a workout while you enjoy a range of ocean-based activities.

DIVE OR SNORKEL AT YOUR FAVOURITE ANANTARA MALDIVES RESORT. OR RIDE THE WAVES AT NIYAMA. SOAK IN AN OUTDOOR SALTWATER POOL AFTER EXPLORING THE MAJESTIC RUINS OF ANGKOR WAT. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WET FACILITIES AT ANANTARA THE PALM DUBAI RESORT, WITH AROMA AND CRYSTAL STEAM ROOMS, SALT INHALATION, HERBAL BATHS AND HEAVENLY EXPERIENCE SHOWERS.



EAT RIGHT AND ENJOY

Search out healthy yet delicious options on your hotel menu. Reduce your serving size as the day goes on. Most of us follow this advice in reverse and dinner is our largest meal. Instead, try eating more food earlier in the day, so you burn it off while out exploring.

WAKE UP TO THE HEALTHIEST OF BREAKFASTS AT ANANTARA LAYAN PHUKET RESORT WITH ITS DEDICATED SUPER FOODS CORNER, OR HIRE A PERSONAL WELLNESS CHEF AT ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES VILLAS. ALL ANANTARA PROPERTIES OFFER A HEALTHY JUICE CORNER FOR YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.

SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM

Nothing is enjoyable without a good night's sleep aim to get in 7-9 hours a night. Try a slumber guru experience. A milky bath is drawn for you, soft music playing in the background. Enjoy a massage with soothing lavender or ylang ylang oil, then imbibe a warm drink and snack before lights out.

EXPERIENCE SLUMBER GURU BLISS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF OMAN AT ANANTARA AL JABAL AL AKHDAR RESORT, ALONG THE ANDAMAN SHORE AT ANANTARA LAYAN PHUKET RESORT, IN THE NORTHERN THAI SERENITY OF ANANTARA CHIANG MAI RESORT OR AT THE MALDIVIAN ISLAND HIDEAWAY OF ANANTARA KIHAVAH MALDIVES VILLAS.





oteliers like to talk of personalisation. The Maldives takes it to the extreme. With each resort situated on a private island surrounded by never-ending ocean, the entire vibe is curated to guests' preferences. Want to chill with your loved one, strolling pristine stretches of beach, deserted save for the occasional Maldivian crane? There's an island for that. Want to party beneath the waves, dine in treetops and surf the greatest waves? There's an island for that, too.

While Indian Ocean beauty and luxury beyond compare are a given in the Maldives, hoteliers who live and breathe the island life will tell you that each paradise is unique. From the size, shape, flora and fauna of the island to the surrounding lagoon and surf – each island has its own soul. The personality of the General Manager trickles down to the staff. Breathtaking moments range from movies under the stars to dining on deserted sandbanks, and are interspersed with quiet touches like curated soundtracks in-room and a popcorn machine.





Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas presents the classic island experience, an all-pool villa paradise – with spa journeys over water and dining beneath the waves – and a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve to explore at leisure. Anantara Veli and Anantara Dhigu are two sister islands – one for active families and one for couples seeking romance – that share a crystal-clear lagoon and boardwalks that take you to even more facilities.

Then there are private islands which are even more exclusive. Take Naladhu, a charming hideaway with only 20 villas and beach houses scattered across its shores. Cycle its sandy paths and take a dip in its crystal lagoon without ever crossing paths with another couple. Doze in a hammock under the shade of a palm without a sound save for the gentle lap of waves. Naladhu has also been bought out in its entirety by private parties, and those fearful of island fever need not be, since a short boardwalk stroll across the lagoon brings you to sister islands Veli and Dhigu, mentioned above, with ample dining and recreational diversions between them.

The same goes for Niyama, a fresh two-island paradise where guests can choose whether to play or chill, with each island exhibiting its own unique rhythm. Large enough that there is always something happening, Niyama's spaciousness ensures quiet stretches of beach and uninterrupted ocean panoramas. Why not have the best of both worlds?

CHOOSE PRIVATE ISLAND LUXURY AT NALADHU OR DUAL PLEASURES AT NIYAMA. FOR THE ULTIMATE HIDEAWAY EXPERIENCE, RESERVE AN ENTIRE ISLAND JUST FOR YOU AND YOUR INTIMATE GROUP. ENJOY ALL-VILLA EXCLUSIVITY AT ANANTARA KIHAVAH, SUNSETS FOR TWO AT ANANTARA VELI OR FAMILY FUN AT ANANTARA DHIGU.

EXPLORE MORE AT **ANANTARA.COM**, **NALADHU.COM** AND **NIYAMA.COM**

ABOUT MINOR



minorhotels.com

A hotel owner, operator and investor with a portfolio of 155 hotels and resorts under the Anantara, AVANI, Elewana, Oaks, Tivoli, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Marriott and Minor International brands. Today, Minor Hotels operates in 24 countries, including Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates. Vietnam and Zambia.

ANANTARA HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

A luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations.

anantara.com

OAKS HOTELS & RESORTS

For travellers seeking freedom, independence and space. Oaks offers spacious contemporary serviced studios and suites. Effortless short or long stays unfold with peace of mind and all the essential comforts.

oakshotels.com

AVANI HOTELS & RESORTS

Contemporary, relaxed and imaginative. Be it a leisurely family break or romantic escape, AVANI Hotels & Resorts provides the right space for guests who value the details that matter.

avanihotels.com

TIVOLI HOTELS & RESORT

Founded in 1933 in Portugal, Tivoli curates a distinctive personality in each of its hotels and resorts. Discover each destination's essence, from cosmopolitan hideaways to seaside paradises, in a growing global portfolio.

tivolihotels.com

ELEWANA COLLECTION

An unrivalled collection of luxury lodges, camps and hotels chosen to give inside, privileged access to the best of Kenya and Tanzania – from the drama and spectacle of African wildlife to elite havens hidden in breathtaking settings.

elewanacollection.com

ANANTARA VACATION CLUB A unique ownership product off

A unique ownership product offering the opportunity for five-star holidays in choice destinations. The vacation lifestyle is yours to explore with Anantara and affiliated destinations, from one exotic locale to the next, for your family today and generations to come.

anantaravacationclub.com

MSDA

The driving force behind a vibrant network of spas, MSpa International develops and manages unique spa concepts tailored for the Anantara Spa, AVANISPA, Mandara Spa, Aequalis and Balance brands worldwide.

MJETS

Bespoke aviation. Soaring with passion. With decades of experience in the aviation and private jet sector, MJETS' diverse international team proudly maintains an ardent commitment to comfort, service and safety.

mspa-international.com

mjets.com

HEAD OFFICE

17th Floor, Berli Jucker House 99 Soi Rubia, Sukhumvit 42 Road, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

AFRICA OFFICE

Golden Oak House, Ballyoaks Office Park, 35 Ballyclare Drive, Bryanston, Johannesburg, South Africa

.....

AUSTRALIA OFFICE

PO Box 473, Cotton Tree, Queensland 4558 Australia

EUROPE OFFICE

Rua Barata Salgueiro, 37 - 1º 1250-042 Lisbon, Portugal

MIDDLE EAST OFFICE

28th Floor, Oaks Liwa Heights, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Cluster W3, PO Box 31303 Dubai, UAE

CENTRAL RESERVATIONS OFFICES

Anantara and AVANI: T +66 2 365 9110 | E reservations@minorhotels.com

Oaks: T+61 7 3246 1700 | E reservations@theoaksgroup.com.au

Tivoli: T +351 210 184 684 (Portugal) or +55 11 3146 5900 (Brazil) | E reservations@tivolihotels.com Elewana: T +254 730 127 000 (Kenya) or +255 754 250 630 (Tanzania) | E reservations@elewana.com

