

TravelTrendz

International

March/April 2023

a travel lifestyle publication

Azerbaijan
Health And Wellness

Finland
The Finnish Way

Italy
Magic Of Brescia



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The winter travel season was a busy one for the Industry. The pandemic restrictions are eased in China as well. The entire industry is looking to find ways to offset the losses. There are some issues including the political issues in Europe are not helping at all.

In this issue as always, we as always offer new and exciting options to our readers. The top destinations and Hotels are being introduced as never before. Do not miss the article on Namibia, Africa. Learn more about the amazing Azerbaijan with its wellness offering. The article on Finland is a must read. We have very special articles on Saint Petersburg, Russia and Brescia, Italy. We have an informative piece about Malta plus an interesting feature on Ljubljana in Slovenia.

We have covered the top notch hotels in this issue such as the amazing property in Namibia by the Gondwana Collection. We have also featured the Cinnamon Hotels in the enchanting Sri Lanka and Luxus Hunza in the amazing North of Pakistan. In this issue we have an article on the amazing Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort In Finland One should miss the feature on Al Badayer Resort by mysk in Sharjah. We have also featured amazing Al Habtoor Polo Resort in this issue plus The Metropolitan Hotel and Indigo Hotel in Dubai.

As always, read about the news and views relating to the hospitality industry plus learn about what is happening in the Airlines and Aviation Industry.

So, have a good time reading...

Ken Chapman
Editor



Contents

06 Azerbaijan
Health And Wellness

08 St. Petersburg
Cultural Capital

10 Finland
The Finnish Way

12 Arctic Resort
Kakslauttanen

14 Italy
Magic Of Brescia

19 Malta
Winter Season

22 Ljubljana
Winter Magic

24 Namibia
Etosha National Park

30 Sharjah
Al Badayer Retreat



Image : St. Regis Bali

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Azerbaijan

Healing at the best Health and Wellness centres

Azerbaijan has more than one type of natural assets which allow to develop diverse sustainable experiences and products. At the moment, this is crucial as it has never been before, as post-pandemic changes demonstrate the value tourists see in authentic and sustainable tourism.

Travellers have an opportunity to restore their mind and soul at renowned resorts through multiple types of wellness procedures. One such experience is taking salt therapy offered in health resorts all over Azerbaijan. However, Duzdag, or 'Salt Mountain', in Nakhchivan, a former salt mine converted into a sanatorium, provides the most authentic experience. The mountain is thought to contain about 130 million tonnes of pure natural salt, which has the ability to cure a number of ailments such as allergies, asthma and other respiratory illnesses as well as aging skin.

The Duzdag Physiotherapy Centre consists of tunnels carved 300 metres into the mountain, 110 metres below the ground. Visitors can spend a night in one of the underground rooms in these tunnels and enjoy not only the restorative powers of salt, but also the calmness and peace away from the everyday hustle. A well-equipped resort is located above ground 2 km away from the tunnels.

Another natural wonder of Azerbaijan is its thermal baths and springs. There are more than 30 deposits of thermal mineral waters with different concentrations, sulphur levels and organic substances in the Caucasus. Three of them are located near the charming city of Gabala situated at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains, and are the basis of balneotherapy treatments at several world-class health and wellness resorts in the city.



Several villages in the Lankaran region to the south of the country are also famous for their thermal water springs, with several sanatoriums offering relaxing and therapeutic baths of the hot, mineral-rich water flowing naturally from underground.

Another must-visit place in terms of thermal resources is the village of Istisu in the Kalbajar district of the liberated Karabakh region. Restoration is underway in this region, where a sanatorium used to treat a variety of illnesses related to the nervous system, skin, muscles and bones as well as respiratory, diabetes, digestive and kidney problems.

Last but definitely not least, the curative effect of the famous oil baths in Naftalan leaves visitors in awe each time. According to popular legend, this oil's healing properties were first spotted by a merchant travelling along the Silk Road who left one of his sickly camels to die by an oily pool and returned to find it fully

recovered. Different from conventional industrial oils, this one has a unique chemical composition, thanks to which Naftalan, located around 300 km from Baku, has become one of the leading health and wellness destinations of Azerbaijan.

Having the power to heal more than 70 diseases, such as muscle, skin, bone and joint pains, as well as gynaecology and neurology problems, the crude oil baths and individual treatment sessions are an ideal experience for those in search of healing. Treatment typically involves taking daily oil baths for at least a week at one of the city's many wellness centres.

Also, a comprehensive city branding strategy has recently been developed for Naftalan city to increase its potential to attract visitors and boost tourism while supporting businesses here. Visitors can now enjoy cycling paths and an Oil Museum pavilion assisted by a Tourism Information Centre and wayfinding signs.



St. Petersburg

The cultural Capital of **RUSSIA**

St. Petersburg is not only a postcard-perfect metropolitan city and the cultural capital of Russia, but a tourist centre of global significance as well. The key to the special atmosphere of the city on the Neva River is the abundance of creative personalities residing there: poets, writers, artists, musicians, painters and sculptors. It is in St. Petersburg that a special genius visits them inspiring to create masterpieces.



St. Petersburg Official City Guide

VISIT PETERSBURG

While talking about of St. Petersburg, it is impossible not to mention theatres. The productions staged in the world famous Mariinsky, Alexandrinsky, Mikhailovsky theaters are met with standing ovations. Of particular note are local museums. Every year millions of travelers come to the city to connect with the art and history, to get to see firsthand the works of Russian and foreign masters, unique exhibits and art shows. However, contemporary St. Petersburg is not just Nevsky Avenue, the State Hermitage museum, St. Peter and Paul Fortress, Mariinsky Theatres, but also art clusters that have already become popular with locals and city guests alike. St. Petersburg today is a fascinating blend of traditional and contemporary trends. It is a city of colorful events and festivals. The event guide of St. Petersburg is bursting with entertaining events and celebrations. Last but not least, St. Petersburg provides a multitude of various tourist routes and offers for every type of traveler. There are cultural, educational, event, recreational, health and medical, business and industrial, wedding, gastronomic and family brands of tourism.

Welcome to St. Petersburg!



Finland

Find happiness the Finnish way

Finland, the world's happiest nation, is situated far up in northern Europe, filled with fascinating contrasts, such as the four seasons, the midnight sun and winter darkness, and urban and rural areas. Finnish people have a balanced lifestyle and a high appreciation for functionality, culture, good food and design, and a steamy Finnish sauna. Finns also believe happiness can be found in nature, and simple things like clean air, pure water, and walking around in the woods are the secrets to well-being. Around 75% of Finland's surface is covered with forests, and the world's biggest archipelago is located there, as well as Europe's largest lake district and last untamed wilderness, Lapland. Instead of sightseeing here, you can find happiness – the Finnish way.

Lapland is an active outdoor destination where nature offers a stage for versatile experiences. Winter is a snow-filled wonder

accompanied by the Northern Lights, summer is a joyous festival of endless light and sun, and in autumn, you can enjoy the changing colors of the autumn foliage. Finland is also the home of the world's most famous person, Santa Claus, and has more reindeer in Lapland than inhabitants.

The Finnish Lakeland is a blue labyrinth of lakes, islands, rivers, and canals, interspersed with forests and ridges. Finland has 188 000 lakes and most of them are situated in the heart of Finland. There is no scenery more Finnish than a cottage by the lake surrounded by emerald green forest. Nature is a huge part of their identity and a significant source of well-being for millions of Finns.

With over 50 000 beautiful islands spread across the sea, Finland has the world's largest archipelago. The laid-back islander





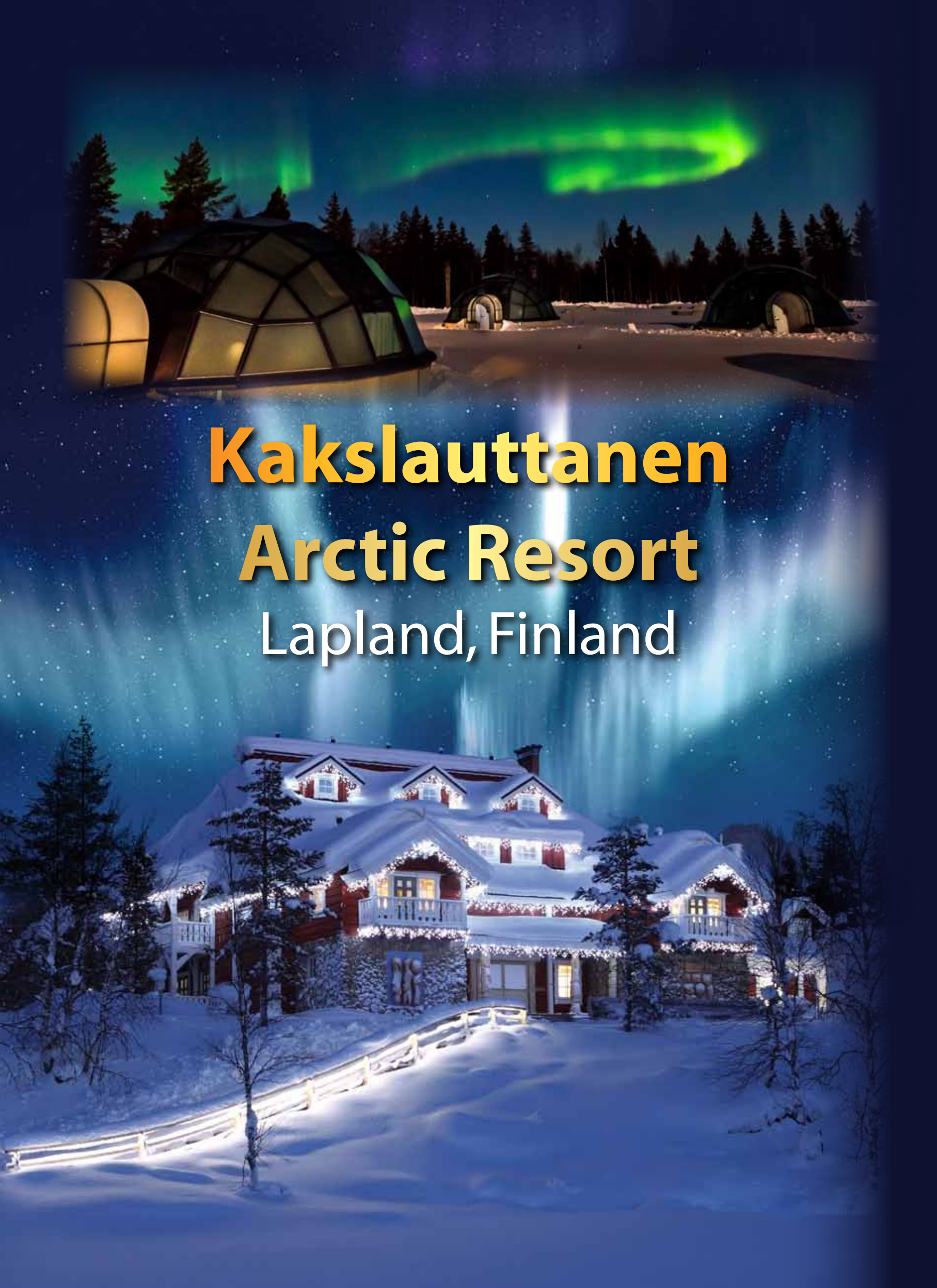
lifestyle and robust maritime culture are key characteristics of this fascinating area. Lively coastal cities and towns, lighthouses, historical manors, and stone churches, large national parks stretching over land and sea – this is Coastal Finland in a nutshell. Finland has seven Unesco World Heritage Sites, five of which can be experienced in the coastal regions.

Helsinki Region includes the Finnish capital city, the metropolitan area, and its surroundings. The region combines urban life with

beautiful small towns and outdoor activities – nature trails are never more than a stone's throw away. Sustainability is a key factor, as the whole area is committed to providing experiences that are based on the principles of sustainable development. It's a vibrant seaside region surrounded by many large lakes and the Baltic Sea. For travelers, the region offers good food, design, museums, and architecture in a compact package.

Welcome to Visit Finland!





Kakslauttanan
Arctic Resort
Lapland, Finland

Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort nestled deep in the heart of Finnish Lapland, surrounded by the awe-inspiring beauty of the arctic wilderness, lies a true gem of a resort.

This luxurious retreat boasts an unparalleled combination of comfort and adventure, offering guests the chance to experience the natural splendour of one of the world's most enchanting regions while enjoying world-class amenities and unparalleled hospitality.

With its stunning array of glass-roofed igloos and cosy log cabins, Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort is a true winter wonderland. The resort's unique accommodations offer guests the chance to witness the breathtaking beauty of the northern lights from the warmth and comfort of their own private sanctuary, all while surrounded by the pristine majesty of the arctic wilderness.

But there's more to Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort than just its stunning accommodations. From snowmobiling and reindeer safaris to dog sledding and ice fishing, there's no shortage of exhilarating outdoor activities to enjoy during your stay. And after a long day of adventure, guests can unwind and relax in the resort's luxurious sauna, take a dip in the heated outdoor pool, or indulge in a delicious meal at one of the on-site restaurants.

But perhaps what truly sets Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort apart is the unparalleled warmth and hospitality of its staff. From the moment you arrive, you'll be greeted by friendly faces eager to ensure that your stay is as comfortable and unforgettable as possible. Whether you're in search of insider tips on the best nearby sights and activities or simply looking for a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which to relax and unwind, you'll find it all at Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort.

So whether you're seeking a romantic getaway, a family adventure, or simply a chance to experience the magic of the arctic wilderness in comfort and style, there's no better destination than Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort. Book your stay today and discover for yourself why so many travelers consider it one of the world's most beautiful and unforgettable destinations.

www.kakslauttanen.fi



The magic of Brescia

From the Valley of Signs to the lakes, here are a thousand and one reasons to discover a province that will capture your heart



Thanks to its proximity to the airports of Milan, Verona, and Bergamo, it is extremely easy to reach Brescia. In the middle of a marvellous circuit of cities of art, Brescia welcomes you for a journey across time following thousands of unique stories, all different yet intertwined.

Brescia is above all a Land of Lakes: the diverse souls of Lakes Garda, Iseo, and Idro represent three different ways of interpreting a vacation which is at the intersection of a Mediterranean holiday and a quaint mountain resort. Well-equipped beaches, boat excursions, and outdoor strolls are some of the charming suggestions that these sites, praised by poets and loved by those who are looking for out-of-the-ordinary places, inspire you to do. Water sports or nature walks, their offering ranges from an almost seaside atmosphere to high mountain landscapes.

Speaking of mountains, Camonica, Trompia, and Sabbia Valleys are Brescia's incarnation of a mountain that can elegantly wear summer as well as winter clothes. Trekking and mountain biking are just some of the myriads of activities that sports lovers can enjoy just steps from the sky. Every season, this offering changes and culminates with the over 100 km of alpine ski slopes of the Pontedilegno Tonale ski area, served by modern ski lifts. To those who interpret active holidays as a way to relax surrounded by nature, Brescia offers an incredible golf circuit and renowned thermal spas, such as Boario and Sirmione, a real jewel on the lake that enchanted Romans and divas like Maria Callas.

It isn't hard to understand why there are so many UNESCO World





Heritage Sites in a region as rich of landscapes as Brescia, which will capture your heart and soul. On top of the incredible gallery of over 200,000 Rock Engravings in Camonica Valley, the province boasts a portion of the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps and also obtained recognition for the Santa Giulia Museum in Brescia, included in the national project Longobards in Italy. Places of Power (568-774 A.D.).

Moreover, Brescia will be the the Italian Capital of Culture in 2023 together with Bergamo.

Finally, you certainly won't go hungry in Brescia. This is a shared opinion among food and wine lovers who can enjoy the DOP and DOC certified products in every corner of the province, starting from Lakes Garda and Iseo's olive oil and continuing with Slow Food presidia, Earth Markets, Michelin-starred restaurants, traditional trattorias, and osterias featuring traditional dishes as well as our renowned wines. Known all over the world, Franciacorta is the epitome of how vine cultivation and wine making are conceived in the region.

Your holiday in Brescia can be further enhanced with the many experiences that Visit Brescia has gathered on its website, organized in the sections MAKE and TASTE IN BRESCIA. Browse through them to understand the wealth of opportunities that this region offers, from discovering how handcrafted paper is made on Lake Garda to learning the technique to make fishing nets on Lake Iseo.

www.visitbrescia.it

AL HABTOOR POLO RESORT

First ever Equestrian-inspired resort

Al Habtoor Polo Resort marks Habtoor Hospitality brand's first ever equestrian-inspired resort which introduces serene levels of sophistication to a world-class city. Ideally located in Dubailand and in close proximity to the city's key touristic attractions, the landmark resort extends timeless Andalusian

elegance within an oasis of excellence, uncompromising luxury and unparalleled service.

Reinforcing Dubai's standing within the global polo circuit, the resort is designed around four polo fields. The distinct



surroundings offer premium stabling for a string of top quality horses and an academy to improve skills in show jumping, dressage, and polo. The resort features 151 guest rooms including 30 suites and 25 villas that overlook the lush green landscape of the polo fields with a variety of recreational activities and entertainment to be enjoyed in an imperial stature.

Home to the highest handicapped polo championship in the Middle East, The Gold Cup; guests can sip cocktails at the swim up bar after lounging on four poster day beds by the pool, dine on Argentinian cuts of meat in the acclaimed Grill Pit steakhouse, enjoy exquisitely prepared comfort food in the surrounds of the horse & hound overlooking the main polo lawn or a delectable afternoon tea in the Equestrian Lounge.

The Al Habtoor Polo Resort offers an exquisite culinary experience inspired by global themes and influences. The hotel features outdoor and indoor dining options including an intimate lounge

and sports bar each offering impeccable service, quality and taste to please the most discerning of palates. Private in-room dining is also available around the clock. The Al Habtoor Polo Resort featuring outdoor and indoor dining at each of the six venues:

- Andalucia – Offering flavours of the Mediterranean
- The Grill Pit – Steakhouse
- Horse and Hound – British Style Pub
- Equestrian Lounge – Lobby Lounge
- The Polo Bar
- Oasis – Poolside Restaurant

In settings that range from intimate refinement to sweeping elegance, Al Habtoor Polo Resort offers four elegant boardrooms, allied with the experienced events experts that will impress even the most well-travelled guests and planners alike. Al Habtoor Polo Resort is the new address for extraordinary meetings and unforgettably bespoke social gatherings.



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Experience Malta

in style this Winter Season

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This winter season Emirates will offer daily flights to Malta starting 1st December from Dubai to Malta. Travelers can experience more convenience, and ease in planning their trip with these new added flights.

A visit to the Maltese Islands is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in centuries of history while enjoying the very best of modern life, with curated experiences to meet your personal desires. Centrally located at the heart of the Mediterranean, the Islands are versatile, flexible and dynamic retaining their long-held position as a favourite destination of choice for a winter getaway destination.

Daily Flights by Emirates from Dubai to Malta

Malta is strategically located in the heart of the Mediterranean with easy reach to all the major European capital cities, with just a three-hour flight to most European airport hubs. "For this winter season, Emirates will fly daily to Malta. Tourists can experience more flexibility to explore the beautiful islands of Malta on their

own terms. With daily flights, it's easier for travelers to get to Malta, whether on a last-minute spontaneous trip, or something long planned." says Claude Zammit Trevisan, Senior Manager, Destination Marketing at Malta Tourism Authority.

Malta targets the UAE and Gulf Countries as a key strategic market for tourism promotion. Earlier in October, MTA participated in the 'ME Travel Caravan' held in Dubai and Riyadh on 11th & 12th October for travel agents and other trade partners. MTA positioned Malta as the destination and partner of choice for the UAE's travel agents, tourism industry partners and leisure-seeking residents. The Maltese tourism delegation gave an overview of Malta's unique experiences, luxury lifestyle and the signature international events. The presentation highlighted the unique experiences and hospitality provided by Malta.

Mr Trevisan further added "Malta looks forward to welcome everyone and it has plenty to offer, whether they're a romantic couple searching for a long-weekend getaway, a group of friends

seeking adventure, art and history buffs, or explorers. With its great climate, Malta is a dreamlike Mediterranean archipelago that continues to exude elegance and vibrancy. Fascinating history, excellent cuisine and beautiful natural scenery makes Malta an ideal vacation choice at any time of the year. The travelers can experience the Maltese islands, for the perfect winter getaway holiday destination”.

Extravagant Winter Events in Malta

While the Emirates flights provides visitors with more freedom of choice and convenience to travel, the winter events in Malta highlight the finest of the islands in perhaps the most exquisite way imaginable.

Following the success of the Rolex Middle Sea Race and other iconic events and festivals in Malta, VisitMalta has expanded their portfolio of international shows and festivals to offer travelers a choice of curated experiences created exclusively for Malta.

AMORA by Cirque du Soleil

AMORA by Cirque du Soleil will be presented in the capital city of Valletta, at the historic Mediterranean Conference Centre, from November 24 to December 18, 2022. AMORA by Cirque du Soleil is a celebration of the magnetic force of love. It is a love letter to the beauty and richness of Malta, and to the circus arts. The story centres around a clumsy but lovable character, Bruno. Gazing up at the skies of La Valette, he sets eyes on a mysterious woman, Loulou. Captivated, he tries to climb up to her balcony to reach her, but she flies away and vanishes out of sight.

Fairyland

Malta is extremely popular for its Fairyland Festival, where Pjazza Tritoni in Valletta will be transformed into Santa’s City this Christmas from the 8th of December to 6th of January 2023! At Santa’s City, there will be enjoyment for everyone. This year, a World Cup Village will be set up for all international football supporters to come together and cheer for their favourite team whilst enjoying



drinks and good food.

In addition to the rides and attractions, visitors will find a Christmas Market where they can indulge in a variety of Festive Food and Drink options! Santa Claus, together with his elves, will be in residence at Fairyland, ready to meet children from all over the world, compile his Naughty and Nice list and even get a head-start on delivering gifts. Fairyland guarantees a magical outing for the entire family.

Valletta Baroque Festival

The 11th Edition of the Valletta Baroque Festival is under way, and it is as eclectic as ever. After two agonizingly long years of postponements due to the pandemic, now the splendid programme commences from the 11th to 29th January 2023.

The festival has treated audiences to a unique event featuring some of the best soloists and ensembles in the baroque music scene. This

prestigious two-week festival plays out within many wonderful baroque and historical venues, such as St. John's Co-Cathedral and The Verdala Palace. The festival highlights the enormous versatility of the baroque idiom and its

mass appeal. Above all, the festival's strength lies in the wonderful baroque settings that one finds in Valletta and the Maltese archipelago; a precious legacy that each and every one treasures.

Malta and the sister Islands Gozo and Comino

Malta is stunning in its beauty. Its charm lies in rocky coves, bays, cliffs and a few sandy beaches. The landscape of Malta and Gozo is dominated by limestone deposits. The limestone is quarried and used in construction, giving the urban landscape a rich, honey-coloured hue. Gozo is significantly greener than Malta. The island is less developed providing an air of tranquillity. Its most notable physical features are its hills. They are distinct landmarks, visible from miles away and providing superb sea views.



Winter Magic in LJUBLJANA

There is something magical about visiting Ljubljana in winter. Cold November days get warmer with exquisite culinary experiences during the traditional November Gourmet Ljubljana festival. While your taste buds get the delicious pampering, you can discover all the treasures of the charming city center. Make time to marvel at the picturesque narrow streets, climb the castle hill reigning over the historical center or treat yourself to at least one of the numerous unique experiences offered by the city.

You can even take part in artisan workshops taking place in the old city center or get an exclusive guided tour along the traces of the great Slovenian architect, Jože Plečnik. The guided tour of Ljubljana offers a special insight into the vision of the Master Builder and his countless fascinating architectural masterpieces that are part of the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2021.

If you would like to experience the ultimate festive spirit, do not miss the December in Ljubljana festival. The majestically lit castle, the fairy tale Christmas lights, romantic strolls along the Ljubljanica River, free outdoor concerts, spicy aromas of mulled wine hanging in the air, and culinary delights of the Christmas markets are a recipe for the unforgettable city getaway. After an active day in Ljubljana, you should take a relaxing boat ride on the Ljubljanica river and get to know the city from a new perspective.

Winter sports enthusiasts will be delighted to learn that Ljubljana also serves as an excellent starting point for winter trips. The white wonderland of the Krvavec, Kranjska Gora, Cerklje na Gori, Rogla, Pokljuka, Velika Planina, and many other ski slopes is easily accessible and offers great skiing or sledging adventures for all generations. Many ice-skating opportunities that will guarantee great fun for the whole family are available in the city as well.

If you prefer to stay inside, you will be happy to know that Ljubljana is also the home of many great indoor activities. There are many museums, galleries, shopping malls, various events and workshops, music and movie festivals, and even thermal pools in the nearby Terme Snovik. For a comfortable tour of the main city attractions, you can hop on a heated electric train. When tired or peckish you can always find a cosy place to get a cup of excellent coffee, a delicious meal or just to hang out.

The beginning of the year is marked by love. LUV fest takes place in February and March and offers many activities for couples or families. Guided love tours, romantic concerts, dances for couples, outdoor performances, and light installations will guarantee unforgettable memories for months to come.



DECEMBER IN LJUBLJANA, JANEZ ZALAZNIK, LJUBLJANA



THERMAL BATHS TERME SNOVIK



DECEMBER IN LJUBLJANA, JANEZ ZALAZNIK



LJUBLJANA CASTLE, ANDREJ TARFILA



VOGEL IN WINTER, FESUS ROBERT

NAMIBIA

Etosha National Park



Die internationally renowned Etosha National Park – undoubtedly Namibia’s most popular tourist attraction -is the heart of north-central region of the country.

Etosha was born from a drying lake that filled up with sediment and was shape by wind the scouring effects of wind erosion. Etosha owes its unique landscape to Etosha Pan, a vast, shallow chalky white depression of approximately 22 912 square km. Once a large inland lake fed by rivers from north and east, which dried up 120 million years ago as continental drift changed the slope of the land and course of the tributaries.

Etosha was first proclaimed a game reserve if 1907. The Etosha Pan covers 23% of the surface area of the park. It is the largest saltpan in Africa, visible even from space. The park hosts 114 mammal species and 340 bird species, several are rare and endangered, such as black rhino and cheetah, and the lesser-known blackface impala,

which is endemic to north-western Namibia and south-western Angola. Etosha’s current population of black rhino represents one of the largest populations of black rhino in the world.

A series of waterholes along the southern edge of the pan draws herds of plains game, elephant, rhino, giraffe, predators and birds, making it one of the most varied and prolific wildlife experiences in Africa.

The park is also a pivotal part of Namibia’s incredible wildlife recovery story, in its more than a century of existence. Etosha has always been a wildlife haven and has become a beacon of success in terms of conservation. Other than the Big five(elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, and the buffalo) Etosha is home to 642 species of terrestrial vertebrates.

Etosha is a great all-year around destination. Namibia’s low rainfall

means that sunny days are the rule. The sparse vegetation makes it easy for game spotting, however it is advisable to plan your visit during winter months, when water is scarce and most of the animals congregate around the waterholes. Alternatively, the summer months are a foray into the "Etosha nursery" with game giving birth to their newest herd members, younglings everywhere.

The question frequently asked, how long is long enough to see every corner of the park so large that it takes up more space than some countries? No amount of time can ever be enough to enjoy

the vast scope of Etosha National Park.

Even discounting the parts closed off to visitors, even by following the marked roads and visiting the designated waterholes still requires a lot of time to experience it all.

Etosha National Park is one of the most famous national parks on the Africa continent and one of the best wildlife experiences in the world.



HEAR THE WHISPER OF THE DESERT

The Desert Whisper, an intimately exclusive and individual pod set in the world's oldest desert, the Namib. It was built on a rocky outcrop, and offers breath-taking views where the vast vistas of the desert, seem to open up at your feet and continue to stretch to the never-ending horizon.

Offering you complete Solitude, with no sign of human interference as far as the eye can see. This magnificent pod is the perfect breakaway, when you want to get away from it all. Creatively constructed, Desert Whisper is designed as a luxuriously special desert retreat for two.

Pad around your open-plan lounge and dining area with its well-stocked bar and fully-equipped kitchen; to your bedroom and en-suite bathroom with their spectacular desert vistas. Soak up the scenery on the terrace with a glass of wine or steaming cup of coffee, and stroll along the wooden walkway to take a dip in the cool refreshing water of your personal plunge pool.

Your own personal reception, dedicated host and scenic drive ensure exclusivity. Meals are pre-arranged to suit your dietary preferences.





The Desert Whisper, was built by Gondwana Collection Namibia, a Namibian tourism and hospitality group, and is located in the Gondwana Namib Park. In 2004, Gondwana purchased the 12,700 ha (127 km²) area, ended livestock farming and transformed the farm into Gondwana Namib Park. Today the park, borders the massive Namib Naukluft Park, which is Namibia's largest and oldest national park.

This makes the Desert Whisper perfectly situated in the Namibian wilderness. Wildlife is not uncommon in this dry and inhospitable landscape. The night skies offer some of the best star gazing opportunities in the world.

The Desert Whisper is the perfect luxurious setting in this ancient land, the rugged country that has been shaped by millennia through the elements. It sits atop its lonely edge gazing over everything before it, just waiting for you to enter to start your perfect desert retreat.



Hotel Indigo Dubai Downtown THE ART OF BRUNCH



Hotel Indigo Dubai Downtown, the lifestyle boutique hotel known for being a unique art destination in the city, is excited to announce the launch of its new brunch "The Art of Brunch," every Saturday from 2pm to 5pm.

Designed for like-minded folks to gather the gang or to come and meet new friends, the brunch will invite guests to indulge in a delicious international feast while immersing themselves in Open Sesame's one-of-a-kind atmosphere.

Open Sesame is a powerhouse on the food scene, making sure every detail, ingredient and brunch guest is given the utmost attention to detail. Guests will mingle with friends over a selection of decadent and mouth-watering cuisines from Italian to Japanese, Lebanese to American – with truly something for everyone.

The flavour some brunch will offer endless entertainment from a resident DJ and violinist playing all the popular tunes, from classic covers to top hits. And then there are a few other fun surprises in store for guests to go back home with great memories.

Hotel Indigo Dubai Downtown welcomes you every Saturday to come for the art and stay for the vibes.
www.hotelindigo.com





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Al Badayer Retreat by mysk



Al Badayer Retreat is located in the southern region of Sharjah, bordering Dubai along the Dubai-Hatta Road. 68Km from Sharjah, 61Km from Dubai, and 176Km from Abu Dhabi – Al Badayer Retreat is perfectly positioned within 230,000 square meters of prime desert location characterised by an interesting topography and striking red dunes.

Experience the feeling of living like a sultan in an empire hemmed in by the golden sweeping dunes. Recharge your vibes as you sail across Al Badayer's immense Emirati Lifestyle. Watch out though that you might get accustomed to this living which will leave you hooked on and wanting more.

A picturesque desert stop set against the sweeping dunes of central Sharjah. Live in a traditional Arabian castle from the age of times decorated with the comfort of modernity.

The room design is an expression of traditional architecture, not cliché, yet maintaining elements of the Arabian culture. You

can choose from staying in a tent fully equipped or in a room depending on the journey you would like to foster.

Two restaurants (inspired by the silk route and International cuisine), Al Badayer Retreat will offer a traditional culinary experience for in-house guests as well as non-residents.

A indoor pool is located on the ground floor of Afiya Court. It operates from 6am until 10pm for the convenience of the retreat guests and with specific timings for Ladies and mix use.

Guests can spend the day lounging as you enjoy the sun's kisses on your skin, experience the art of Hena or even go on an adrenaline-fueled adventure exploring the desert's gems with desert safaris, sand boarding, dune bashing, stargazing and falconry displays.

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Metropolitan Hotel Dubai

Contemporary comfort in
the heart of the city



The Metropolitan Hotel Dubai is a vibrant and refined 4-star property that occupies one of Dubai's most central and sought-after locations alongside the Sheikh Zayed Road, making it an ideal location for visitors seeking contemporary comfort in the heart of the city. The hotel is minutes away from Al Habtoor City and the Downtown areas, Safa Park and the Canal.

Built in 1979, the original Metropolitan Hotel was famed for being one of Dubai's first hotels and an institution in itself. 'The Met', as it became affectionately known, reigned as a treasured 'home from home' amongst local and international guests alike for over 20 years.

In 2013 the Metropolitan Hotel Dubai closed its doors to make way for Al Habtoor City – bringing with it the end of an era. The Metropolitan Hotel Dubai is the perfect place to host events in one of the region's busiest cities. The beautifully appointed Al Shindagah Ballroom can accommodate up to 500 guests. The hotel can also accommodate various functions in any of its five meeting rooms including corporate meetings, product launches, cocktail parties and gala dinners.

The hotel has developed its own rewards program, called Loyal, which guests can use throughout the Group's hotels and outlets.

The original Metropolitan Hotel was the Al Habtoor Group's first foray into the hospitality industry and was one of just a handful of hotels in the city at that time.

The Group's Chairman made a firm promise to its loyal guests to revive the property in years to come. True to his word – an elevated and renewed Metropolitan Dubai opens in 2016, offering guests and a chance to experience a new chapter in the legacy of a hotel which sits truly in the heart of Dubai.





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- GAMING ZONE**

- 100 LUXURY ROOMS**
- MULTI CUISINES RESTRAUNT**
- SWIMMING POOL**
- 24/7 ROOM SERVICE**
- 2 BANQUET HALLS**
- 8 MEETING ROOMS**



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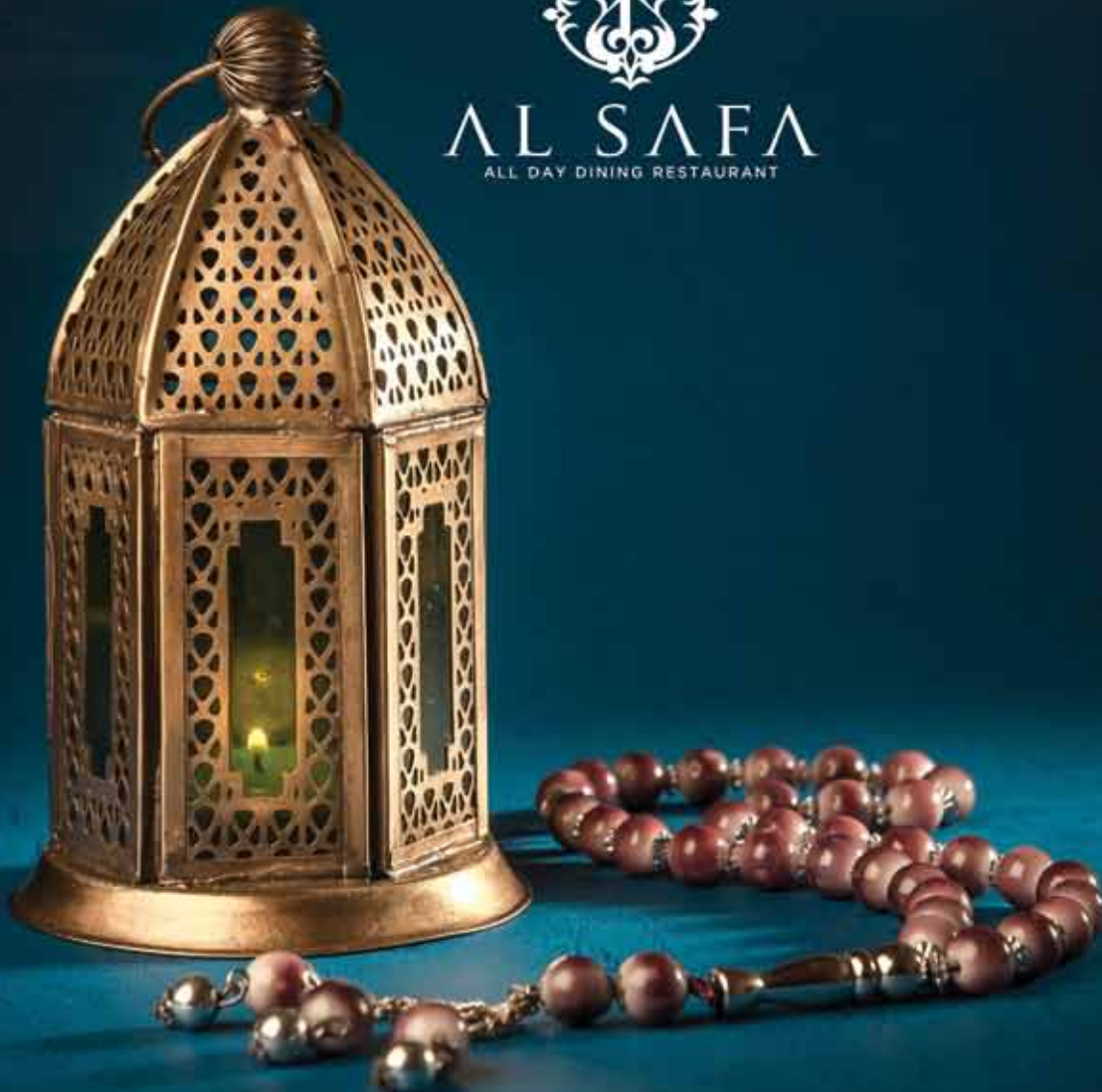
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