

TravelTrendz

International

September / October 2022

a travel lifestyle publication

Baku

Diverse Landmarks

Malta

Tourism Promotion

AlUla

2022 Calendar

Vienna

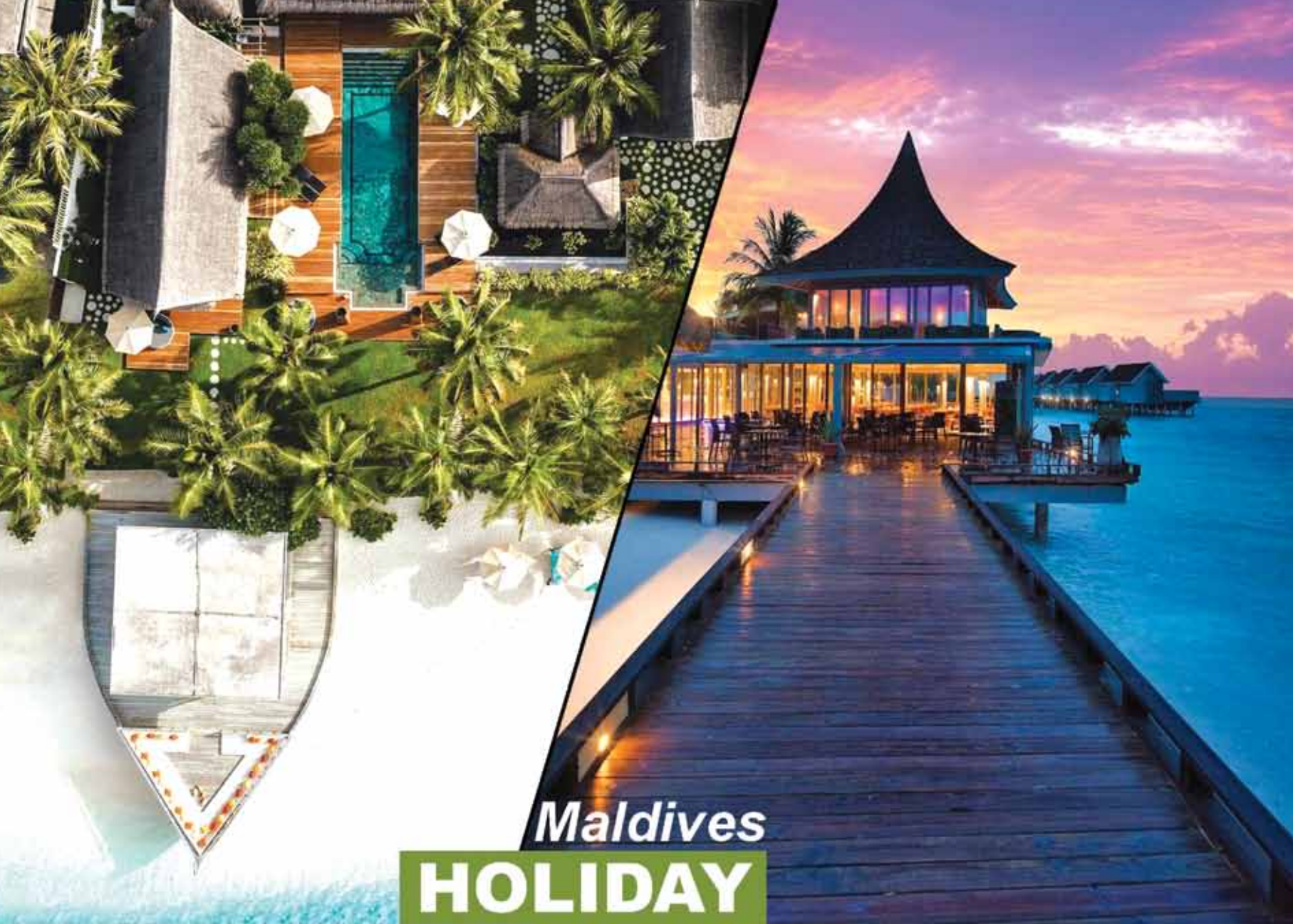
Live It, Love It

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WITH EMIRATES**



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The summer saw big numbers of travelers desperate to fly after long gap due to Covid restrictions. The pandemic is still here but quite mild with resurfacing in some places like China etc. The entire industry is in trouble and coping with high energy cost and ground handling issues in some major airports are not helping at all. On top of it political issues in Europe is also lingering on.

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 miss the article on Vienna, the best city to live in the World. Learn more about the amazing city of Baku, Azerbaijan. The articles on naturally beautiful Baden-Baden, Germany and the culturally rich Georgia are truly informative. We have a very special article on AIUla helping you to learn about a place like no other. We have an informative piece about Malta and its future plans to attract visitors. Finally, we have amazing feature about the legendary Lahore with its history and culture.

We have covered the top notch hotels in this issue such as the Centara Mirage Beach Resort in Dubai and The Habtoor Polo and Barracuda Beach Resort, Umm Al Quwain are not to be missed.

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

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REDISCOVER BAKU'S DIVERSE LANDMARKS



Welcome to Baku - a city with a diverse architectural legacy where you don't need a time-travel machine to go back in history. A blend of west and east, ancient and modern architecture will create an experience beyond your expectations. In Baku, you will discover the atmosphere of the 12th century in the cobbled streets of Old Town, experience what it felt like to live among oil magnates, and finally, relish magnetic contemporary architecture.

The Old Town (known locally as Icheri Sheher) is Baku's medieval core located in the heart of the capital. As you enter the Old

Town it merges you into a unique atmosphere of oriental history and culture with its narrow streets and alleys, craft shops and museums, as well as art galleries. Almost on every corner, you can find cafes and restaurants with delicious local cuisine. Walking around, you will witness the city with life dramatically changing to tranquil corners where you can sit in peace and observe the fascinating architecture around you. While visiting Old Town, sightseeing such as Maiden Tower and Shirvanshah's Palace are a must-visit for every travel enthusiast. The former one is shrouded in mystery and believed to be a 12th-century lighthouse, while the latter one used to be the residence of Shirvanshah dynasty.



The residential complex dating back to the late 12th century to the late 14th century, has a mosque, mausoleum, hamam, divankhana, gates and reservoir representing magnitude of this historical sight. Moreover, together with the abovementioned landmarks, Old Town is inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. These and many more sights can be discovered in the Old Town that has a special place in the hearts of every visitor.

As you leave the majestic walls of the Old Town, you are taken to the 19th and early 20th-century architecture of so-called "oil boom period". When oil industry flourished in Baku in the early 1800s, the city transformed dramatically. Newly established

buildings were a blend of Gothic, Baroque, Neoclassical and Art Nouveau architectural styles. Big number of these landmarks were designed by European, especially Polish architects, who incredibly affected city's infrastructure. Such dramatic contrast to the Old Town illustrates the rich and diverse culture of Baku. Each building has a special story to it, which you can learn about in the thrilling architectural walking tours.

The architecture of Baku prospers year by year, tastefully decorating the city with splendid view. Elegance of the Flame Towers overlooking Caspian Sea will instantly take away your breath. Whether you are strolling the streets of the Old Town or



enjoying the city view from Highland Park (Dagustu Park), Flame Towers will be seen from almost every corner of Baku.

With its uniqueness and futuristic looks, Heydar Aliyev Center transports you to sci-fi world. Being recognized as one of the world's architectural masterpieces, it belongs to the post-modern architecture and depicts eternal cycle. Not only exteriors but the interior of this iconic landmark with its exhibition and concert halls are worth your time. Further, as you walk on Boulevard on the shore of the Caspian Sea another modern architectural jewels of International Mugham Center and Carpet Museum are there to immerse you into rich culture of our beautiful country.



Four reasons to visit Baden-Baden

Baden-Baden, beautifully located on the northern cusp of the Black Forest, is a city famous for its spa & wellness as well as its elegant lifestyle. It gained UNESCO World Heritage status in 2021 as one of the Great Spas Towns of Europe. This charming town is a destination which attracts international visitors at any time of year as this gem has much on offer to restore one's body and mind. Here are four reasons why Baden-Baden is a must-see for every traveller.

Wellness & spas

Baden-Baden's hot springs are its *raison d'être*: daily 800,000 litres of warming waters at a temperature of up to 68 degrees work wonders for body and soul. This is what the Romans have discovered some 2000 years ago, when they founded the first public baths in Baden-Baden to improve the wellbeing of others.

The modern Caracalla Spa with more than 43,000 sq-ft of bathing and wellness space, creates an exceptional ambience for relaxation in the thermal water. While the historic Friedrichsbad looks back on more than 140 years of bathing history and brings traditional

Roman bathing culture and Irish hot-air bathing to the modern day. Luxurious day spas at some of Baden-Baden's spa hotels allow pampering and indulgence at another level.

Culture & events

Those with a passion for the arts can immerse themselves in a veritable wealth of cultural offerings. The Festival Hall Baden-Baden, Europe's second largest opera and concert hall, is known for its incredible acoustics and world-renowned roster of artists. The Museum Frieder Burda, built by famed New York architect Richard Meier, is a must-see for visitors who love art and architecture. There are also a variety of annual events in and around the city, including international horse racing, vintage car meetings, food and music festivals, concerts, opera, ballet, and much more.

Stunning nature & the great outdoors

Baden-Baden is a haven of tranquillity where nature takes centre stage. The city centre is a car-free zone and everything can be



reached on foot. For a breath of fresh air, visitors can stroll through the many picturesque parks and gardens, home to some of the most exotic floral varieties. The Lichtentaler Allee, a 3 kilometre-long green oasis, invites for relaxing walks or horse carriage rides. Home to Germany's largest municipal forest, Baden-Baden is a great destination for long walks and hiking tours. The most beautiful view and the best spot for lovely sunsets offers the Merkur Mountain – at 2,191ft the highest point of the city. A funicular railway brings you up the peak in only few minutes.

Food lovers heaven

Food always plays a big role when travelling and Baden-Baden proudly showcases a plethora of gastronomic offerings. From Michelin-starred restaurants to cosy little taverns, there's plenty to whet the appetite in the city no matter your preferences. 'Maltes hidden kitchen' headed by talented young Chef Malte Kuhn, has turned from hidden gem to shining star on the dining scene since receiving his first Michelin star in 2022. By day, an elegant Kaffeehaus and by night, the tables turn and the switch from hot coffee to haute cuisine takes place and Malte's magic becomes alive.

Exuding class and sophistication at every turn, Baden-Baden is a truly enchanting place, and with experiences like these it is a must-see for any traveller and a destination that cannot be missed.



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Barracuda Beach Resort Umm Al Quwain

Barracuda Resort located just 60km from Dubai, Barracuda Beach Resort is situated on the edge of the Umm Al Quwain lagoon and is the perfect spot for a weekend away to relax and recharge whilst still having fun. We have everything you need for an unforgettable stay, including contemporary villas and suites, specialty restaurants and facilities every family member will enjoy, regardless of age.

Stay in one of our Superior Waterfront Villas which has been created to deliver the truly unique Barracuda Beach Resort experience and is perfect for families or unwind on the private balcony facing the majestic infinity pool in one of our King, Two, One or Studio suites.

Relish the sumptuous Biryani and succulent kebabs in our Indian restaurant, Biryani Junction or pull up a chair and join the table at Thunder Road Pizza and Grill Italian Restaurant. We have something on the menu for every family member.

Our location makes the perfect venue for private meetings and events. We have many gathering spaces both indoor and outdoor that can be adapted to suit any need.

Whether it be relaxing by our majestic infinity pool, having a BBQ on the beach or playing a game of volleyball with the kids we have a wide range of activities and facilities to suit the whole family.







Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai



Day passes for Dubai's favourite family-friendly resort are available for weekdays between till 30 September.

Daycation pass includes a Superior room, a buffet lunch and access to all the resort's fun facilities

Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai is inviting families and the young-at-heart to drop in for a day of fun and adventure – and the option of retreating to a room to relax in-between – with an all-new Daycation pass.

Available on weekdays till 30 September, the Daycation pass is a ticket to the playfully-themed property's much-loved water attractions, lush grounds and delicious dining options. There's family-friendly fun for all ages: take it slow and cruise the lazy river, splash about in the kids' fun water play area, zoom down water slides and brave the cliff jumping points. A rope climbing course will test the skills of little adventurers, and the Camp Safari Kids' Club and Ezone (for teens) will give parents a few hours of much-needed rest and relaxation.

When it's time to break from the adventure, Daycation pass holders can head to a well-appointed Superior Room that they'll have exclusive access to from 9am – 5pm to shower off and freshen up for lunch.

Served between 12.30pm – 3pm at Suan Bua, a Thai restaurant overlooking a calm lotus pond, guests will enjoy a mouth-watering buffet of home-style specialties from four different regions of Thailand.

Packaged for 2 x adults and 2 x children, the Daycation prices start at AED350++, and any additional guest incurs a cost of AED100+.

Another two packages being offered this summer at the Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai will have residents and tourists flocking to the sandy shores of Deira Islands to snap up these deals:

The Me & Centara summer stay rates are further cementing the resort as Dubai's favourite family-friendly destination. Rates start from AED499 per night, and include complimentary WiFi, a delicious breakfast for two adults, and up to two children stay and dine for free from the tasty kids' menu.

The resort's Spa Cenvaree is offering a Family Package to allow families to enjoy meaningful moments together as they unwind and enjoy the best traditional Thai treatments. In keeping with the hotel's playful vibe, the re-worked menu includes playful innovations for younger clientele: watch out for the 90-minute Kid Candy experience, where masks and scrubs scented with playful flavours including bubble gum, toffee apple and blueberry candy will evoke their favourite treats. For an adults-only experience, parents in need of a little down time can leave their children in the care of the professional nannies at Centara's Kids Lounge.

www.centarahotelsresorts.com/centara/cdd

AIUla Moments

2022 calendar announced & Azimuth returns

The ancient desert city of AIUla has announced its 2022 line up of key events and festivals. Under the umbrella of AIUla Moments, the 2022 lineup includes the return of AIUla Wellness Festival as well as Winter at Tantora and announces a new addition to the calendar – The Ancient Kingdoms Festival.

Also, in an exciting return to city's marquee events, the calendar kicks off this September with the return of the Kingdom's first music festival, Azimuth. The intimate 3-day celebration of music, art and food is back with a refreshed approach in a stunning canyon setting.

With a focus on sunrise and sunset performances and an exciting mix of east meets west - the festival is set to be a hot ticket for music and arts lovers who want to escape the city heat over the Saudi National Day weekend.

Azimuth is followed directly by The Wellness Festival. Debuting in March 2022, the festival returns in a new September/October period to capitalise on the changing of the season and the beginning of new life. The festival will once again be anchored by Five Senses Sanctuary – a purpose built spa, fitness and wellness retreat which will bring the world's best practitioners together with local talent to create the Kingdom's most significant offering of experiences for the mind, body and soul.

The Ancient Kingdoms Festival brings the past into the present with experiences inspired by the significance of 7000 years of successive civilisations on the Arabian Peninsula and the famed incense road trading route that cemented AIUla as the bustling commercial and cultural crossroad.

The festival marks the first time that visitors will be invited to discover the linked frontier oases of Northwest Arabia – Khaybar, AIUla and Tayma - both of which hold their own globally significant geological and historical legacy. The Ancient Kingdoms Festival will



also offer a series of exciting music, arts and outdoor events at the key heritage sites of AlUla – including the popular Hegra After Dark.

Winter at Tantora continues to grow as AlUla Moments signature festival offering the best of the best in eclectic, surprising and ground-breaking events that showcase the destination in new and exciting ways. This year's experiences include innovative dining, high-fashion, immersive arts, outdoor theatre and more.

Other experiences to mark on the calendar for those looking to visit AlUla in the coming months include the Dates Festival which runs for four weekends in September and October, and a visit to AlUla's new Adventure Hub which offers abseiling, rock climbing, via ferrata and canyon hammock, and zipline – all of which are perfect for beginner adventurers and available all-year round. These experiences are perfect for the early mornings and late afternoons in the summer and anytime during winter.



- Dates Festival – Weekends 16 September – 8 October
- Azimuth – 22 September -24 September
- AIUla Wellness Festival – 29 September to 16 October
- Ancient Kingdoms Festival – 11 November to 27 November

- Winter at Tantora – 21 December – 21 January

More dates to be announced for 2023 which will complete the AIUla Moments winter program of five major festivals and five marquee events.

The 2022 calendar can be downloaded from experiencealula.com.



Luxus Grand

Deluxe Rooms and Luxury suites unparalleled in the market

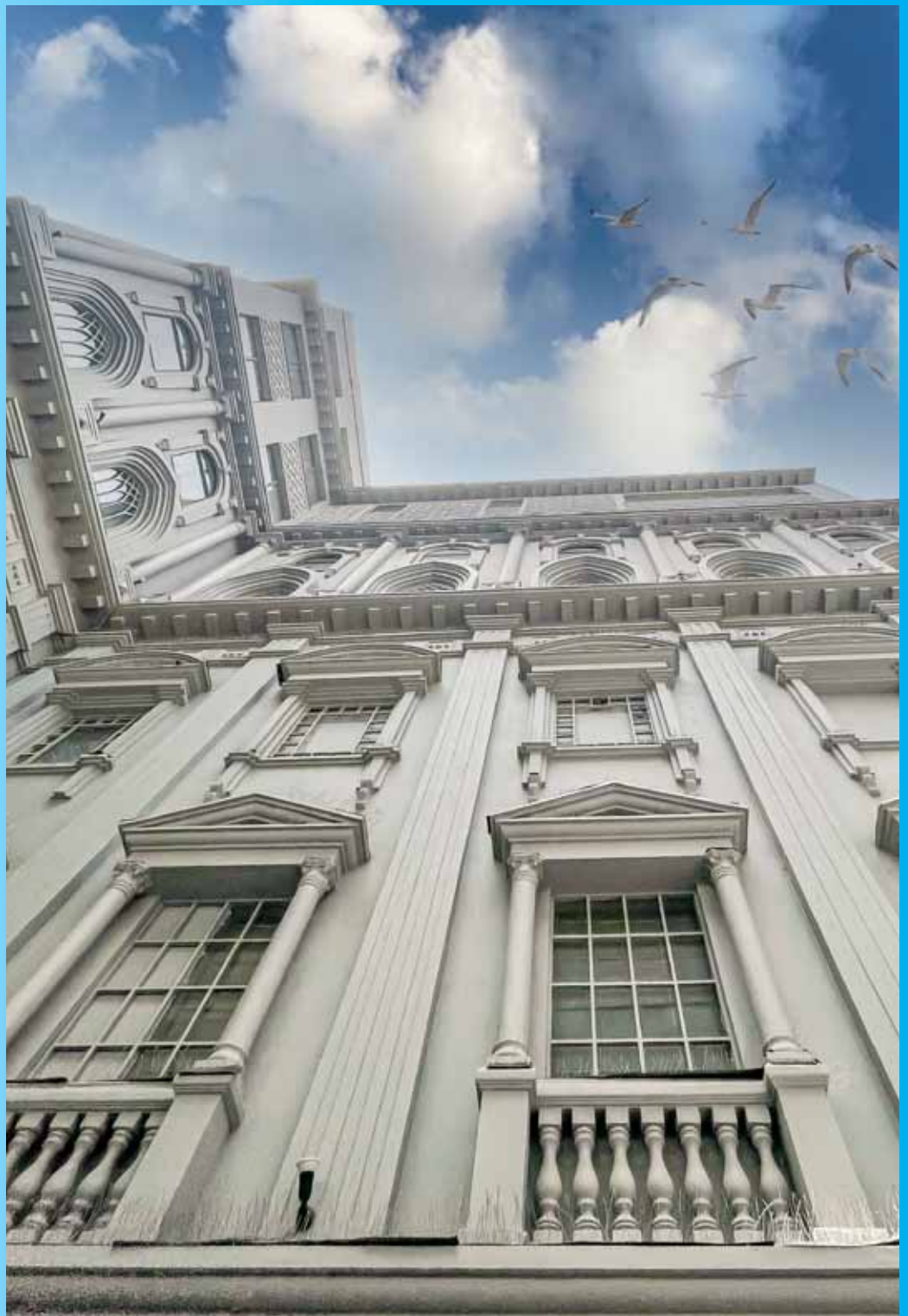
Grand by name & service, Luxus Grand Hotel provides Deluxe Rooms and Luxury suites unparalleled in the market. Opened in 2016, the property is one of the latest additions to the Lahore Skyline.

Business & leisure travelers alike appreciate the central location, right on the Mall Road, the heart of the city's business and food district.

Hotel Facilities:

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- ⇒ 8 Board rooms
- ⇒ Indoor swimming pool
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- ⇒ Valet Parking
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- ⇒ 24 hours maintenance available

Address: 4 Egerton Road Lahore, Pakistan
luxusgrandhotel.com



Majestic Suites & Villas



Luxus Hunza 5 star Luxury Resort in Pakistan with panoramic lake views

Luxus Hunza is an affiliate of Luxus Grand Hotel, Lahore. After successfully leading the Lahore hospitality industry in guest reviews and rating, Luxus is proud to present a one of its kind 5 star Luxury Resort in Pakistan with panoramic lake views.

Address: Luxus Hunza, Aainabad, 15km from Karimabad going towards Gulmit (7km short of Gulmit), Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan



Legendary Lahore



by: Fouzia Sohail

Always pertaining its splendour through the differentiated directives of norms over a few centuries, Lahore's luminous image is intact. It is not only a UNESCO 'City of Literature' but as of now a city of thriving universities, film industry, tourism, publishing industry, bustling bazaars and of Sufi and Qawwali (folk melodies) music and shrines. Lahore is not only historically rich but culturally so, being affiliated to various sects, religions and rulers as its past portrays.

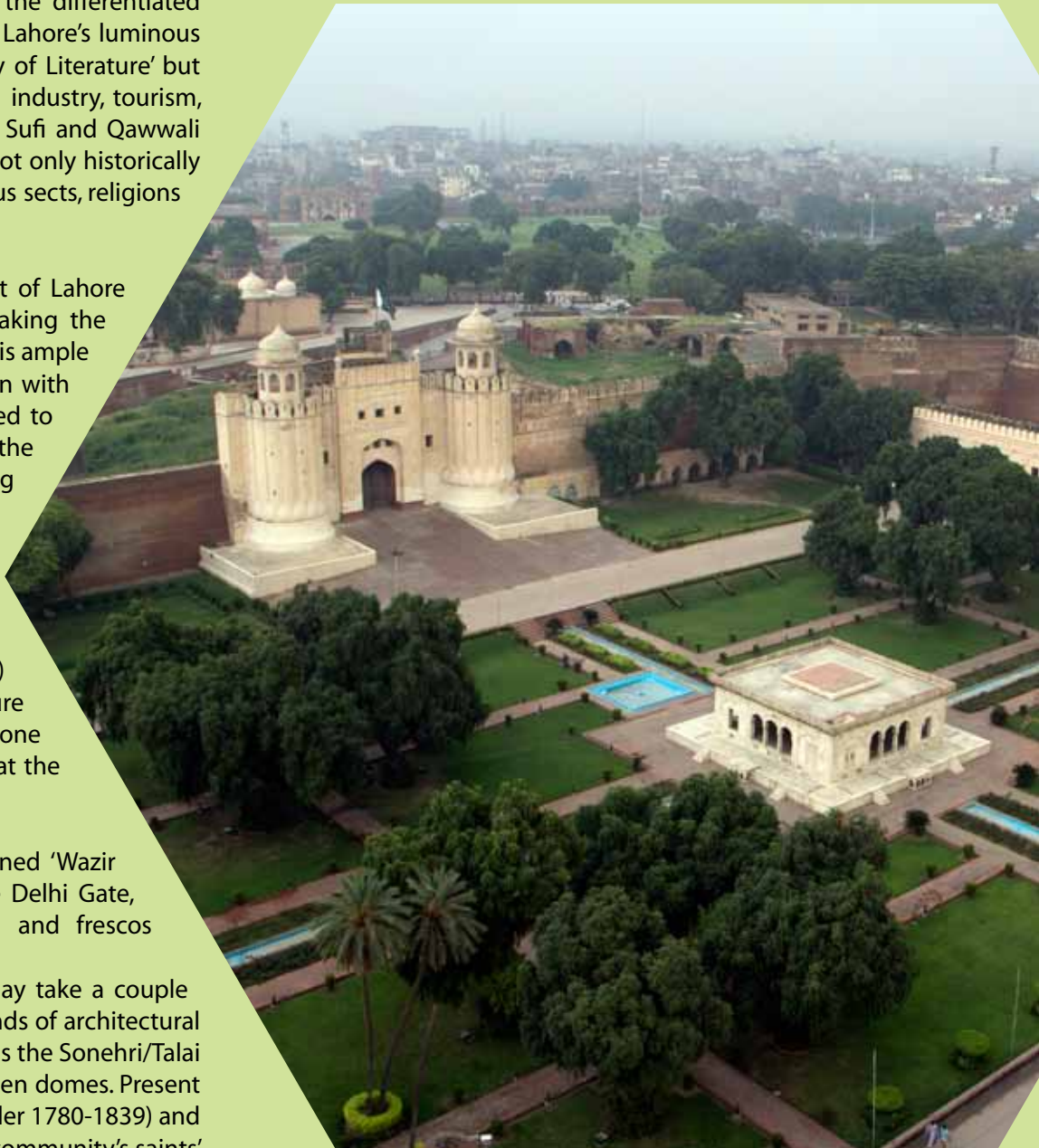
The Old City or The Walled City is the heart of Lahore and captures one's attention immediately taking the visitor to an era beyond the past. Whilst there is ample proof of the lavish heritage sites, I shall begin with the Lahore Fort or "Royal Fort" as it is referred to in the Urdu language. Its sits elegantly at the northern end of the Walled City, encompassing a 20-hectare area with 21 monuments which are truly a visual delight. The main entrance is the majestic Alamgiri Gate with its white coloured stones and towards its west side is the "Badshahi Masjid" (Imperial Mosque), while the "Hazuri Bagh" (Quadrangle Garden) is right across it. The iconic Mughal architecture is dominant through the carved red sandstone and marble inlay work as is the mirror work at the Sheesh Mahal or Shah Burj.

Further on, one meets the intricately designed 'Wazir Khan Masjid' which stands grandly near the Delhi Gate, here the ostentatious "Kashi-Kari" (tilework) and frescos (mural artwork) are so evident.

The continued restoration within this site may take a couple of years more and is an ode to the masterminds of architectural designers of Lahore's past. Within the vicinity is the Sonehri/Talai Masjid (Golden Mosque) apparent by its golden domes. Present nearby is the Samadhi of Ranjit Singh (Sikh ruler 1780-1839) and the Gurdwara Dera Sahib which are the Sikh community's saints' remains demonstrating the connection of the Sikh community to Lahore.

Apart from the many 'Havelis' (ancestral mansions) that give insight of the lush lifestyles and ornate décor, the true essence of this legendary city is felt visually and through the olfactory senses as one passes through the narrow alleys consisting of bazaars, baithaks (sitting or meeting areas), hammams (bath areas with an elaborate canal system), food street, and the amazing craft shops, that are a treat to any visitor. Your trip can be double the fun by hopping on a Rangeela Rikshaw (colourful form of local tuk-tuk).

The legacy of this wondrous walled city is felt with the engraved handworks on the doors and iron latches at each house. A special mention to 'Haveli Mian Sultan' (House of Mian Sultan- a



heritage property #G-287) and also a definite mention to the tomb (Mazaar-e-Iqbal) of Allama Mohammed Iqbal - poet, philosopher and politician who first idealised the concept of Pakistan. The tomb of this 'Poet of the East' is a mausoleum located in the front of the Badshahi Masjid's forecourt (Imperial Mosque) and pays true tributes to the national poet of Pakistan. This tomb, built in a mixture of architectural styles is consciously lower than the mosque's level in respect to the place of worship and has the poet's couplet inscribed to state his anti-discriminatory views and thus voices the spirit of equality and brotherhood to resonate in this city of wonders.





Capital Group

The largest independent travel agent of Maldives

Capital Group has been setting the standard for travel business in the Maldives for over two decades. As the Maldives's largest independent travel agent Capital Travel specialises in providing good value, quality holidays alongside excellent customer service.

As an independent private company, the staff are able to offer impartial advice and an extensive range of holiday experiences. The company works with over 25,000 suppliers and travel agents to promote its partner resorts worldwide.

Today, we are proud to be able to take care of everything for our clients and partners including flights, hotel reservations and local transportation. Furthermore, we are proud to provide solutions for our customers on a personal basis for every aspect of their travel.

In 2002, the Capital Group ventured into Hotels Supply business with the formation of ASTRABON Hotel and Resort Supply





business. Today, we are one of the leading companies in this arena with the largest collection of kitchen utensils and equipment showcased in the ASTRABON Showroom in the heart of Male'.

We are working tirelessly with our partners to continue our businesses sustainably with great vision, care and confidence. We are a reputable Group that works continuously to improve our services and provide the best deals for our clientele and business partners in the Maldives and across the Globe.

Capital Group provide versatility and a choice of services to suit goals of investors with access to exclusive acquisition and development opportunities and assist throughout the investment lifecycle, from planning and executing new developments through to exit.

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- * Save money and time on consultations.
- * Designing your property. Make your property unique.
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- * Boost your brand exposure and strengthen your market presence in Europe through our upcoming London Sales & Marketing office.

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Also, we can create effective print and digital presentations for our clients, and launch impactful promotional campaigns across. Also, of our strong sales partners network, we can secure bookings in advance of opening the property.



The Ritz-Carlton Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert



Inspired by Bedouin architecture with breathtaking desert views

Just north of Dubai, The Ritz-Carlton Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert invites guests to connect with nature and culture amid the beauty of a 1,235-acre protected reserve. The resort's Experience Concierge can arrange a desert trek on camel- or horseback, a private archery lesson or an evening of stargazing. And luxury villas, inspired by Bedouin architecture, feature private outdoor pools and breathtaking desert views.

Experience tranquility, picturesque scenery and rich culture in the Bedouin-styled villas, which come with private pools and decks, lounge areas and breathtaking desert views. For the adventurous traveller, book a desert camel trek, a private archery lesson or bird-watching session, or just head out on a nature walk and soak in the surroundings. The desert resort boasts five dining venues including the newly opened Sonara Camp, farm-to-table Farmhouse, all-day dining at Kaheela, the open-sky Moon Bar and the relaxed Moorish lounge.



Malta Targets the UAE and Gulf Countries as a Key Strategic Market for Tourism Promotion

The Senior Marketing Manager of MTA (Malta Tourism Authority), Mr. Claude Zammit Trevisan along with other Stakeholders from Malta will lead the mission to the UAE in October to entice Gulf residents to travel to Malta

A tourism delegation from the Republic of Malta will visit Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 11th and 12th of October, 2022 respectively and take part in the AVIAREPS Middle East Travel Caravan 2022 to position Malta as the destination and partner of choice for the UAE's travel agents, tourism industry partners and leisure-seeking residents.

Maltese tourism delegation will consist of MTA together with Exclusively Malta DMC and 2 hotels from Malta who are eager to reconnect with the region's leading travel agents, and grow visitation from the UAE and Gulf region to Malta.

Meetings with UAE and KSA government officials are envisaged, as well as with private companies and airline representatives to strengthen established partnerships and seek new opportunities that position Malta as a safe, exciting and rejuvenating destination for all residents of the Gulf region.





A number of key events will be held as a platform to bring the tourism industries together to create innovative and enticing holiday packages to Malta. A travel agent workshop will be held on October 11th, 2022 at the Shangri-la Hotel Dubai, to be attended by some 100 leading travel agents and outbound travel professionals from Dubai and the Northern Emirates to hold one-to-one meetings with sales representatives from Malta's preeminent hotels and tour operators. On October 12th, 2022, a similar workshop will be held in Riyadh at the Intercontinental Hotel for 80 travel specialists, media representatives and social media influencers from Saudi Arabia.

MTA will be participating in AVIAREPS Middle East Travel Caravan 2022 along with 2 Hotels: Radisson SAS Golden Sands and Intercontinental Malta, Exclusively Malta DMC, to educate agents and tour operators from the UAE and Saudi Arabia and raise awareness about the attractions of Malta and encourage them for creation of new holiday packages to Malta that are specifically tailored to UAE and Saudi travellers' needs.



Commenting on the upcoming visit Mr. Claude Zammit Trevisan, Malta Tourism Authority, said; "We are extremely pleased to be visiting the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to conduct one-to-one meetings with corporates, TOs and OTAs during the workshop and reconnect with our industry partners. The number of Malta partners present in this workshop is indicative of the commitment and level of importance this market holds for us. The UAE and Gulf region have become key strategic markets for Malta, as we diversify our visitor mix. Our Maltese Embassies in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh respectively are working tirelessly to support all the tourism initiatives, MTA is extremely grateful for their support."

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 short-haul destination of choice for conferences and incentives.

Travellers will embark on a host of authentic experiences and adventures or find new ways to relax and unwind on an island, blessed with Mediterranean sunshine, while having all your personal requirements met.





AL HABTOOR
POLO RESORT

Al Habtoor Polo Resort

Summer Getaway like no other

Al Habtoor Polo Resort is thrilled to announce an exciting array of new offerings for guests to enjoy this summer. While polo season might be over – there is so much more to experience at Al Habtoor Polo Resort with the resort's many thrilling activities. Located in the picturesque Dubai Silicon Oasis, just a stone's throw away from the hustle and bustle of Dubai, Al Habtoor Polo Resort is an unexplored haven of serenity.

With a large variety of luxury deluxe rooms, exceptional suites, and stunning private pool villas, guests have a choice of where to stay for their revitalizing summer getaway. Boasting five sophisticated bars and restaurants specially designed to suit everyone's palate, valued guests will never want to leave the resort as all their needs are exquisitely catered for.

For those looking to add some excitement into their stay, Al Habtoor Polo Resort has a wide range of recreational activities to keep you busy from morning 'til night. With yoga, kickboxing, dance, and archery classes running weekly, paddle and tennis courts are also available to rent daily. The property also features a state-of-the-art fitness gym, swimming pool, polo academy,

horse riding school and golf driving range. These activities are the perfect way to work on your summer body, or simply to keep you occupied during the holidays. Cool off after a magnificent day of fun in the charming resort's pool, or in your own private pool if you choose to stay in one of the hotel's luxurious villas.

Guests are also invited to take a stroll around the stunning expansive grounds of the resort. Take in the spectacular landscape of the polo fields and greenery dotted around the whole resort as you walk around and soak in the peaceful ambience. The relaxing atmosphere is also heightened by the natural beauty that surrounds you with its soothing qualities.

To top off your stay, enjoy a relaxing massage or spa treatment at the tranquil in-house LVXE Spa. Treat yourself to a variety of rejuvenating treatments that are sure to leave you rested and relaxed, post-summer. After your delightful spa experience, partake in a time-honoured afternoon tea ritual, while you gaze out into the unparalleled views of the resort grounds. With so much on offer this summer, book your stay at Al Habtoor Polo Resort, and see for yourself how it is a resort like no other.





Live it, Love it, in Viennese style

A city that makes you want for more

Vienna – the most liveable city in the world

by: Hazel Saldanha

Vienna – a city steeped in history that spans over a thousand years, has been the capital of a regal Austrian empire and today, retains its title as the capital of culture, music, fine arts and everything in between. It owes its universal appeal to the way it excitingly combines imperial nostalgia with a highly creative cultural scene that juxtaposes its previous heritage and charming traditions over a modern tech forward era.

Architecture dating from imperial times has left edifices in a baroque style, most notable, is the Ringstrasse. Dubbed the world's most beautiful boulevard is home to many of Vienna's most famous sights, museums, grand palaces and royal gardens. Glittering palaces such as the Schönbrunn, Hofburg, and Belvedere exceed one's impression of the opulence of its past empire and are perfectly preserved for use as museums and libraries. St. Stephen's

Cathedral is an iconic symbol of Vienna. Its stunning mosaic roof coupled with gargantuan towers offers an epic view of the city. On the inside, one is bathed in exquisitely decorated icons and massive gothic columns showcasing its revered history.

Within the city's heart lies the embodiment of luxury and the perfect haven for visitors to enjoy a taste of life in the "world's most liveable city" within the walls of the Hotel Sacher. One of the last family run five-star hotels in the region, it blends into its magnificent surroundings whilst offering modern amenities that discerning visitors demand. It is centrally located opposite the world-famous Vienna State Opera. Sacher has attained international acclaim with its famed Sacher-Torte a fluffy chocolate glazed dessert developed in the 1830's for the royal court that to this very day fascinates global epicures. No visit to the city is



complete without adjourning to the Café Sacher for afternoon tea and a slice of Torte heaven.

Several famous composers such as Mozart, Mahler, Haydn, Beethoven, and of course the waltz king Johann Strauss have called the city – home. It’s impossible to imagine music in Vienna without the Vienna Philharmonic considered as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Nonetheless, as with every facet of life in the city, its music scene is accessible to a wide range of audiences. Performances can be enjoyed in the State Opera House and around every corner in Vienna, for example, spontaneously on the grounds of the majestic Schönbrunn or in any of its grand Churches.

Award winning Michelin star restaurants and cozy corner eateries within the historic center offer an abundance of traditional Viennese specialties such as Schnitzel and Tafelspitz. These quintessential dishes showcase the culinary roots of its historic empire fused with a local twist. The MusuemsQuartier and Naschmarkt are two of

several vibrant streets that exude a lively energy from patrons and connoisseurs alike. For the forward-looking gastronome and well placed within the city’s eco-tech ambience, an organic novel start-up, blün tempts foodies with catfish and fresh vegetables from its own closed looped aquaponics facility, creating a sustainable “farm-to-table” ecosystem.

Viennese coffee house culture is a living entity where time and space are consumed, but only coffee is found on the bill. It was listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO recognizing what has been the soul of public life for centuries. There are around 2,400 coffeehouses in Vienna of which Café Landtmann stands out as a cornerstone. Located within the vicinity of academic and government institutions, it boasts an incredible guest list – Sigmund Freud and Gary Cooper to name a few, were regulars who enjoyed their premium coffee and a heavenly slice of Apfelstrudel.

For an afternoon away from the city, reflect on an excursion to the family-run Weingut Wienerer that operates a biodynamic





winery with the highest respect for nature. Their plethora of wines has been critically acclaimed for their quality and clarity. Enjoy the silence on the outskirts with a glass of local wine and lunch delicacies whilst the sun sets over the glistening Danube River - an unforgettable experience. Or taste delicious confections made from fresh flowers at the Blühendes Konfekt, - highly recommended.

Cherish fond memories of the Austrian capital with a discerning piece of locally crafted glassware from Lobmeyr, a 200-year-

old family run business. Meticulously crafted by famed artists, its decorative tableware and chandeliers adorn palaces, opera houses and hotels worldwide.

In the words of Billy Joel, "Dream on, but don't imagine they'll all come true. When will you realize Vienna waits for you." Celebrate life, art, pleasure, and, of course, all aspects of extraordinary city life in Vienna.

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Batumi Adjara

GEORGIA



We were fortunate enough to meet and gain information about the region from Tinatin Zoidze, Head of Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A. R.

Tinatin Zoidze got her education from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Georgia, Business Administration, Faculty of Economics and Business, Ph.D. has a vast experience with Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A. R.

She is the Director, Agency for the Development of Tourism Products since 2015 and heading the Tourism Department, Batumi Tourist Agency since 2011.

Tinatin Zoidze informed us the unique feature Georgia is the people who are immensely hospitable and around 65% of the repeat visitors are because of its diversity in terms of Nature, Culture and Traditions. The destination offers all four seasons with average summer temperature around 30c and in winter at 12c to 15c.

Tinatin Zoidze told us that the exceptional hospitality and the goodwill of the Georgian people make every trip to Georgia very special. A traditional Georgian feast is a superb display of the diversity of Georgian cuisine, cooking techniques, table-setting traditions and other accompanying rituals. Adjarian cuisine is an inseparable aspect of Georgian cuisine. In mountainous Adjara, dairy products are common ingredients in many dishes.

Furthermore she informed us that Batumi is an attractive destination not only during the summer season but also in spring and autumn. Visitors can sunbathe or swim as early as the beginning of May. The sea becomes even more pleasant during September and October, given Batumi's long Indian summers. Winters are warm and summers are hot in Batumi. In addition to the seaside, visitors can also trek to the amazing mountainous regions of Adjara. Just a few hours away from the seaside.

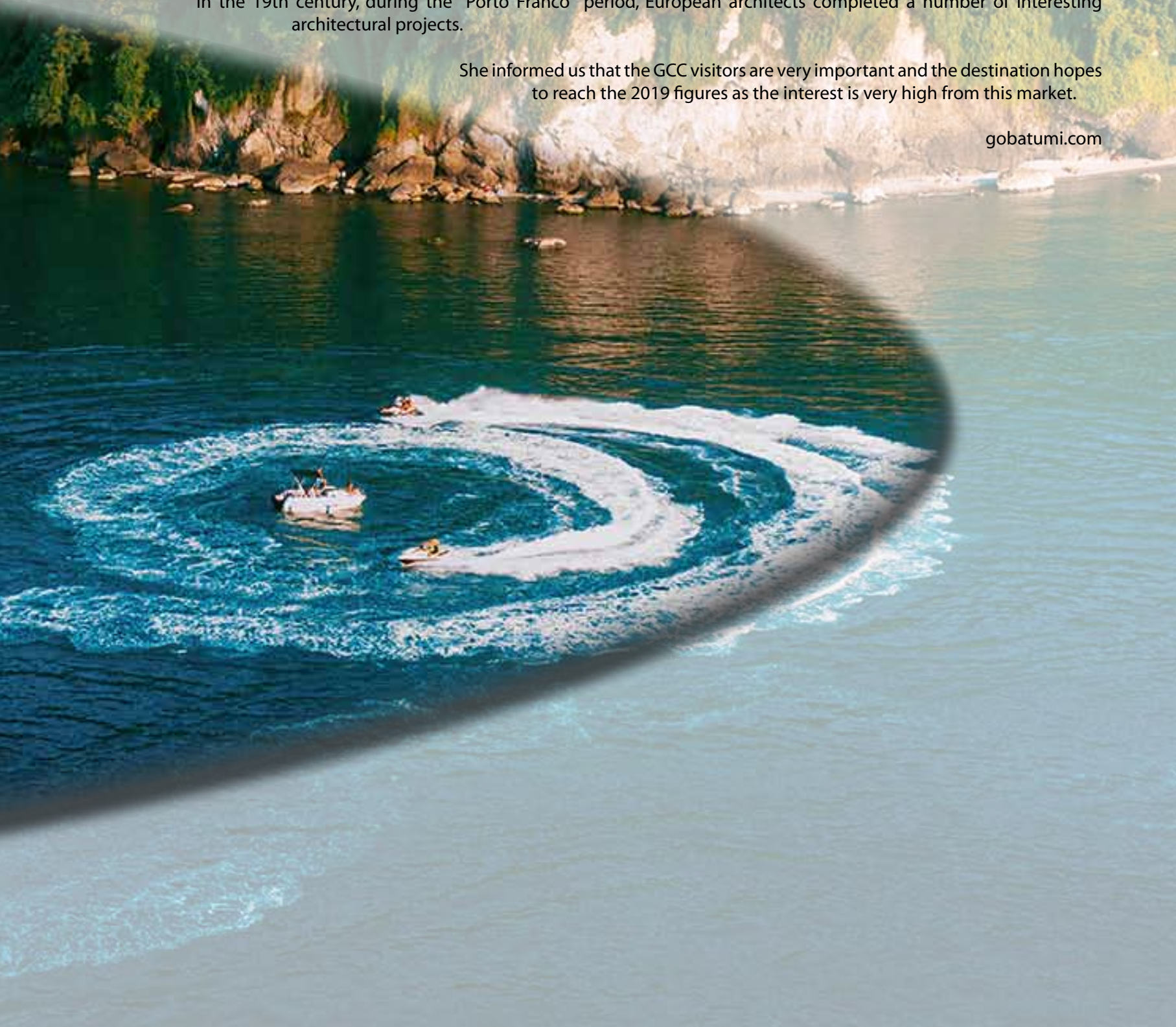




Tinatin told us that Batumi is one of the oldest cities in Georgia founded as before the Common Era. The initial settlement "Batus" is mentioned in sources from the 4th century BCE. The city's unique history has contributed to the city's vast architectural diversity. In the 19th century, during the "Porto Franco" period, European architects completed a number of interesting architectural projects.

She informed us that the GCC visitors are very important and the destination hopes to reach the 2019 figures as the interest is very high from this market.

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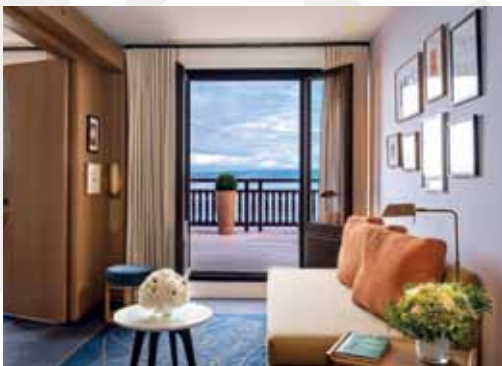
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