



THE GALLIVANTER'S GUIDE[®]



NOV 2010 | VOL.20 | No.11 **SETTING THE BENCHMARK FOR HIGH-END TRAVELLERS**

Over the past ten years, young high-end travellers have increasingly demanded child-friendly hotels and resorts, which, prior to this were few and far between. Hotel management companies have bent over backwards to please travellers with children, but in doing so, many high-end establishments have, unwittingly, alienated the increasingly profitable child-free, senior, single and gay markets, which previously made up a large percentage of their business.

I used to receive endless e-mails from readers with young children, anxious to find a suitable high-end resort. Now, however, couples sans kids are writing to me with a certain desperation to find somewhere that is adult-friendly. How things have changed.

I am a great fan of Four Seasons Provence, but not in high season when there seem to be more children than staff. I al-

so heard that this summer, the diving nirvana of Amanwana was awash with young children, despite its unsuitability. It seems that nowhere is sacrosanct.

I do not want to return to the days when it was impossible to find anywhere



to take the children or grandchildren, but perhaps what we need is more of a balance, or, like Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, an all-out ban on young children, due to the unsuitability of the property.

Over the years, we have produced several special issues detailing child-friendly resorts, but this month, it is the turn of the grown-ups.

I cannot guarantee that you will never see or hear a child in the following properties, but it is certainly less likely.

The Oberoi Mauritius.

Mauritius specialises in child-friendly properties; just about every resort touting its own plush kid's club, but The Oberoi Mauritius is a rather more sedate and peaceful option, set in 20 acres of exquisite gardens edging a splendid beach that is a third of a mile long, plus two separate pool locations with entirely different views. There is elegant dining in two locations, an Ayurvedic style spa and some very attractive villas; the best of which have their own pool. It is one of



Villa, #106, at The Oberoi Mauritius, with private dining pavilion and large private pool, is a haven of relaxation.

GALLIVANTER'S Gossip



OPENING NEXT MONTH IS **Riad Villa Blanche** in Agadir, Morocco; the first high-end option in Agadir and, although not exactly on the beach, is just a 10 minute walk away. With 28 sleekly designed rooms and suites, the Spa Amane, pool, bar and restaurant, this could provide a nice diversion after the bustle of Marrakech, which is now just a 2-hour drive away on the new motorway. www.villablancheagadir.com

LOOKING GOOD IS THE NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL, **Imanta Resort, Punta Mita**, Mexico. Check out the five Ocean and Oceanfront Casas, each 2,500 sq ft with private infinity-edge pools. They also have two 9,000-10,000 sq ft Villas. I love the look of the Observatorio Bar, and note that they also have a Spa, terrace swimming pool and private beach. Of course, whether the service works is another matter. General Manager is José Carlos Navarrete. www.imantaresorts.com

THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS that Amanresorts will create an **Aman in Perth**, Australia, in the historic 19th Century Treasury Buildings. The 46-room hotel will be part of a mixed-use development, with Aman partnering with Tim Mack of Perth-based FJM Equities.

THE HOTTEST NEW HOTEL IN BANGKOK is scheduled to open June 2011. Named **The Siam**, this privately owned 39-suite idyll was designed by Bill Bensley and will be managed by Jason Friedman (ex Four Seasons Tented Camp and Qualia). Set on nearly 3 acres of prime riverfront, the hotel includes private pool villas with open-air roof terraces, a riverfront bar and its own boat pier. There is also a riverside infinity-edge pool, a spa, restaurants, butlers; in fact everything you could possibly wish for. www.thesiamhotel.com

THE EX-PRESIDENT of **One&Only Resorts**, Paul Jones, who left the company quite suddenly this year after a lifetime with Kerzner, is now CEO of **Naiade Resorts**, overseeing properties in Mauritius and the Maldives, with plans for further expansion worldwide. <http://naiade.com>

OCCASIONALLY, SOMEONE ASKS ME FOR AN HOTEL RECOMMENDATION near London's **Heathrow Airport** and I struggle to think of anything suitable. However, this could be the answer to all our prayers. Just 20 minutes by car is a simple but civilised stop-over option called **High Road House**, in Chiswick, which is part of the Soho House Group. With just 14 individually designed rooms, it is ridiculously cheap to stay here, despite every room having 6ft beds and the usual goodies. Best opt for a Playroom, though, as the other rooms are very small. Traffic is normally quite light in both directions. www.highroadhouse.co.uk

LAOS COULD BECOME one of Asia's top high-end destinations. After Amanresorts' pioneering **Amantaka** in Luang Prabang, Anantara follow next year in Northern Laos with **Anantara Xishuangbanna Resort & Spa** in the Hengduan Mountains across from the Luosuo River, with 103 rooms, including 23 pool villas. www.anantara.com

LOOKING BETTER BY THE MINUTE, Island Outpost's **GoldenEye Resort & Spa**, Jamaica, opens this month with ex-Cotton House Mustique General Manager, Nick Simmonds. 23 units on 52 acres and a marvellous beach could see a high-end return to Jamaica. www.goldeneye.com

DIDIER LE CALVEZ, CEO of **Le Bristol, Paris**, is transforming the hotel. Next step is to double the size of the spa by early 2011 and introduce 3 new spa lines. www.lebristolparis.com

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